



# Network Analysis with SiLK

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SEI/CERT Network Situational Awareness



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# Outline — 1

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## Introduction: SiLK

Network flow

Basic SiLK tools

Advanced SiLK tools

Summary

# What is Network Flow?

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- A log of all network activity
- Not a recording of all packets
- A record of metadata from related packets
  - Similar to a phone bill (call detail record)
- Content of messages is *not* recorded
  - Much, much more compact
    - Can retain longer
    - Less processing
  - Increased privacy

# What SiLK Does

---

## Retrospective analysis

- most useful for analysing past network events
- may feed an automated report generator
- good for forensics (what happened **before** the incident?)

## Descriptive analysis – profiling/categorizing

## Exploratory analysis – looking for the unusual

## Optimized for extremely large data collections

- Very compact record format
- Large amount of history can stay online.
- Can be processed much more quickly than packets

# Modes of Inquiry

## Detect

example: Snort®

Operate like Tech Support

Response

Alert

Relax between detections

## Discover

example: SiLK™

Operate like Quality Assurance

Exploring

Question

Continuous security improvement

Produce new indicators

Shorten detect/response time

Snort is a registered trademark of Cisco and/or its affiliates  
SiLK is a trademark of Carnegie Mellon University



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# Got a Question? Flow Can Help

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What's on my network?

What happened before the event?

Where are policy violations occurring?

What are the most popular web servers?

By how much would volume be reduced with a blacklist?

Do my users browse to known infected web servers?

Do I have a spammer on my network?

When did my web server stop responding to queries?

Who uses my public servers?

# Outline — 2

---

Introduction: SiLK

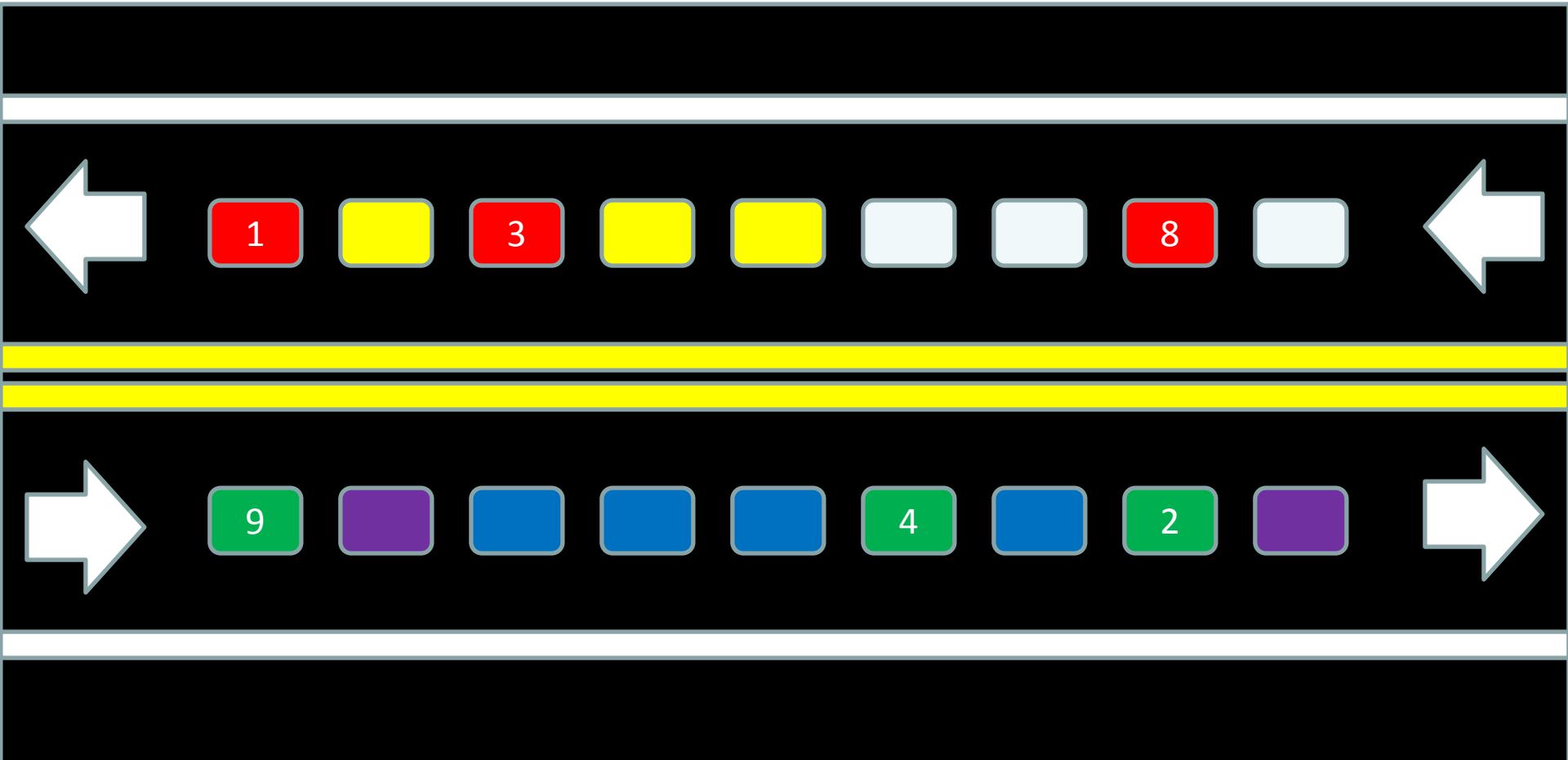
**Network flow**

Basic SiLK tools

Advanced SiLK tools

Summary

# Unidirectional Flows (Uniflows)



# Packet Encapsulation

## Ethernet frame

Dest MAC address

Source MAC addr

Type of packet

## IP datagram (packet)

Src IP address

Dst IP address

Type of  
segment

## Transport segment

Src port

Dest port

Flags

**Application  
layer message  
(HTTP, SMTP,  
DNS)**

# Two TCP/IP Sockets Make a Connection

## TCP/IP SOCKET

IP address: 10.0.0.1

L4 protocol: TCP

High-numbered  
ephemeral port #



Client

## TCP/IP SOCKET

IP address: 203.0.113.1

L4 protocol: TCP

Low-numbered Well-Known-Port #



Connection

Server

# Network Flow versus NetFlow

---

Network Flow—a generic term for the summarization of packets related to the same flow or connection into a single record

NetFlow™—A Cisco trademarked set of format specifications for storing network flow information in a digital record

IPFIX—a format specification from the IETF for flow records, an extension of Cisco NetFlow v9

SiLK—Another set of format specifications for flow records and other related data, plus the tool suite to process that data

# What's in a Record?

---

Fields found to be useful in analysis:

- source address, destination address
- source port, destination port (Internet Control Message Protocol [ICMP] type/code)
- IP [transport] protocol
- bytes, packets in flow
- accumulated TCP flags (all packets, first packet)
- start time, duration (milliseconds)
- end time (derived)
- sensor identity
- flow termination conditions
- application-layer protocol

# DNS packets viewed in Wireshark

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Tools Internals Help

Filter: Expression... Clear Apply

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.000000	192.168.1.105	10.1.10.1	DNS	78	Standard query A www.mudynamics.com
2	0.348077	10.1.10.1	192.168.1.105	DNS	94	Standard query response A 69.55.232.156

Frame 2: 94 bytes on wire (752 bits), 94 bytes captured (752 bits)  
Ethernet II, src: cisco-Li\_66:ae:1c (00:1a:70:66:ae:1c), Dst: Applecom\_d3:9a:b8 (00:19:e3:d3:9a:b8)  
Internet Protocol version 4, src: 10.1.10.1 (10.1.10.1), Dst: 192.168.1.105 (192.168.1.105)  
User Datagram Protocol, src Port: domain (53), Dst Port: 50744 (50744)  
Domain Name System (response)

No.	Hex	Dec	Text
0000	00 19 e3 d3 9a b8 00 1a 70 66 ae 1c 08 00 45 00		..... pf....E.
0010	00 50 05 91 00 00 3f 11 9f f9 0a 01 0a 01 c0 a8		P....?.....
0020	01 69 00 35 c6 38 00 3c 78 0d ea f9 81 80 00 01		.i.5.8.< x.....
0030	00 01 00 00 00 00 03 77 77 77 0a 6d 75 64 79 6e		.....w ww.mudyn
0040	61 6d 69 63 73 03 63 6f 6d 00 00 01 00 01 c0 0c		amics.co m.....
0050	00 01 00 01 00 00 0e 10 00 04 45 37 e8 9c		..... E7...

Wireshark is a registered trademark of the Wireshark Foundation



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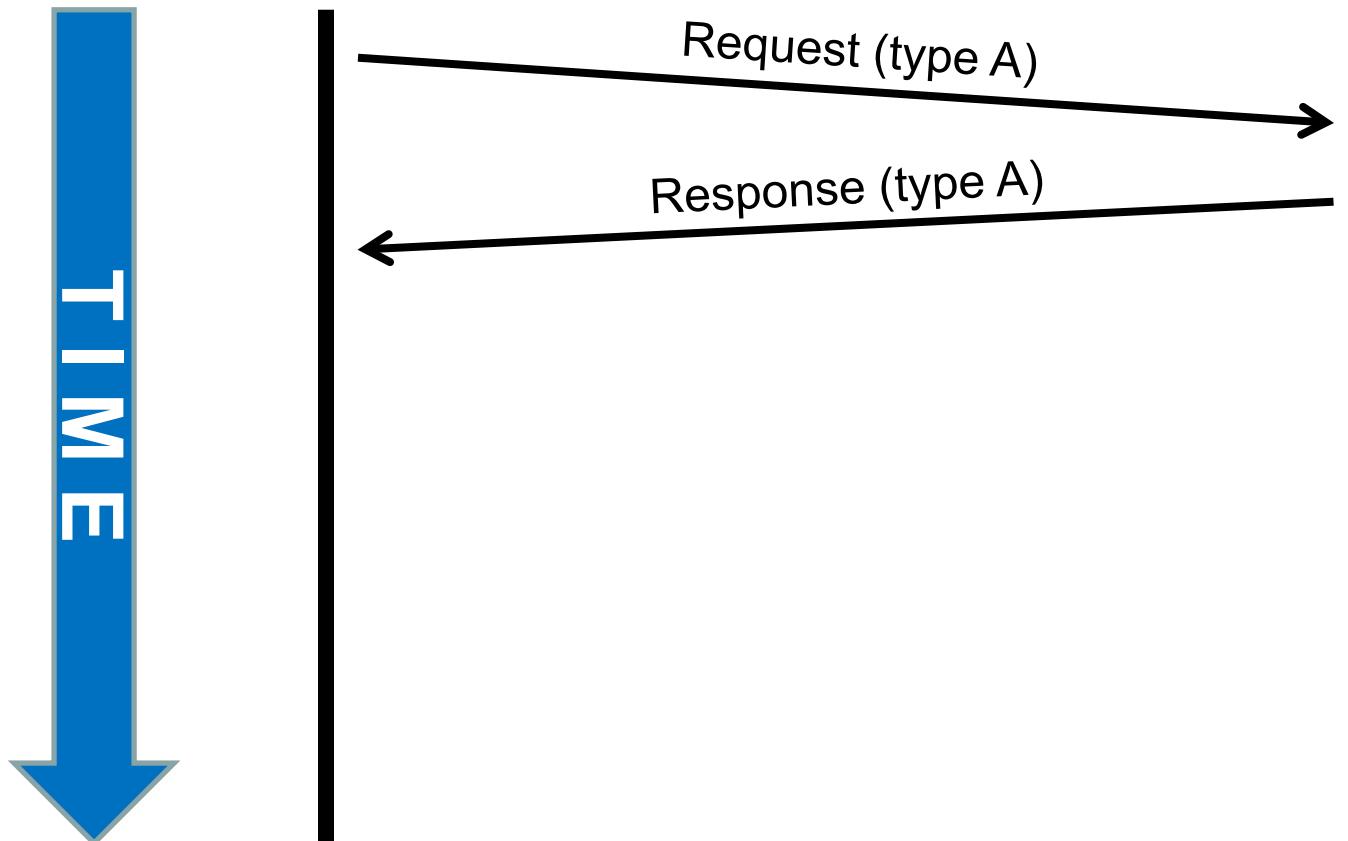
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# Sequence Diagram

DNS Client  
192.168.1.105  
UDP port 50744

DNS Server  
10.1.10.1  
UDP port 53

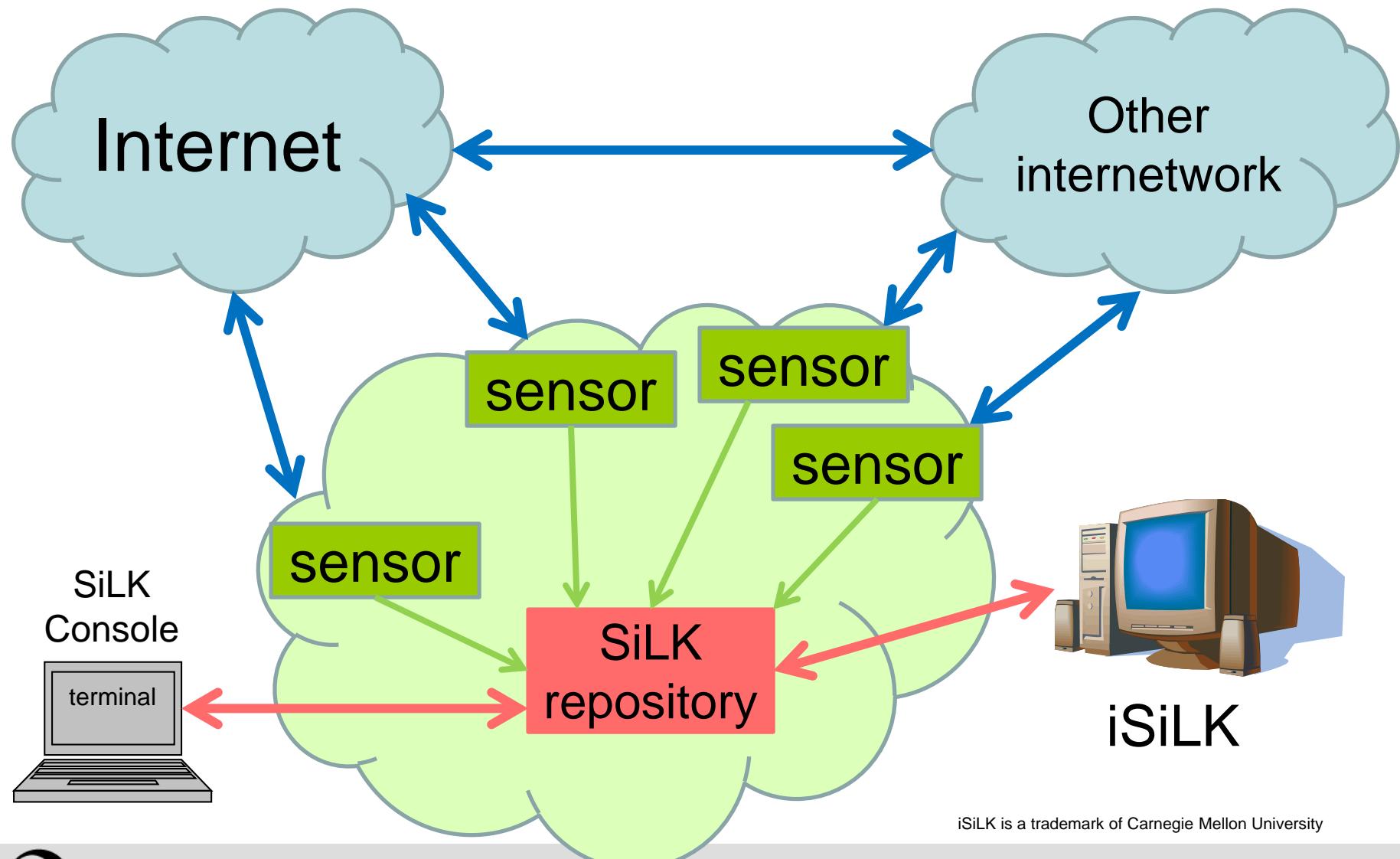


# SiLK tool (rwcut) output

---

sIP	dIP	sPort	dPort	proto	packets	bytes	sensor	type	
192.168.1.105	10.1.10.1	50744	53	17	1	64	S1	out	
	10.1.10.1	192.168.1.105	53	50744	17	1	80	S1	in

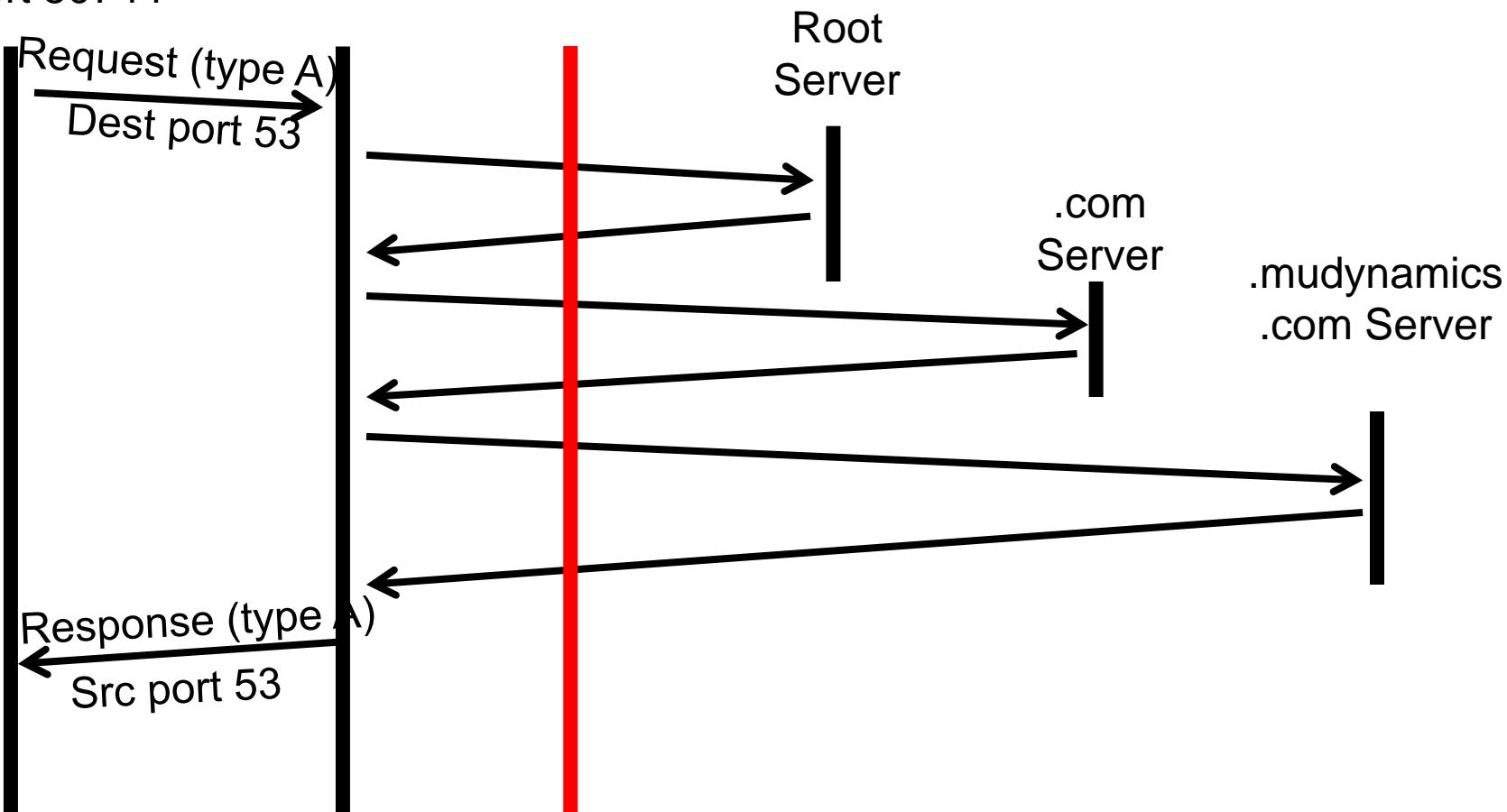
# Network Monitoring



# Realistic Sequence Diagram

DNS Client  
192.168.1.105  
UDP port 50744

Local Server **Sensor**  
10.1.10.1

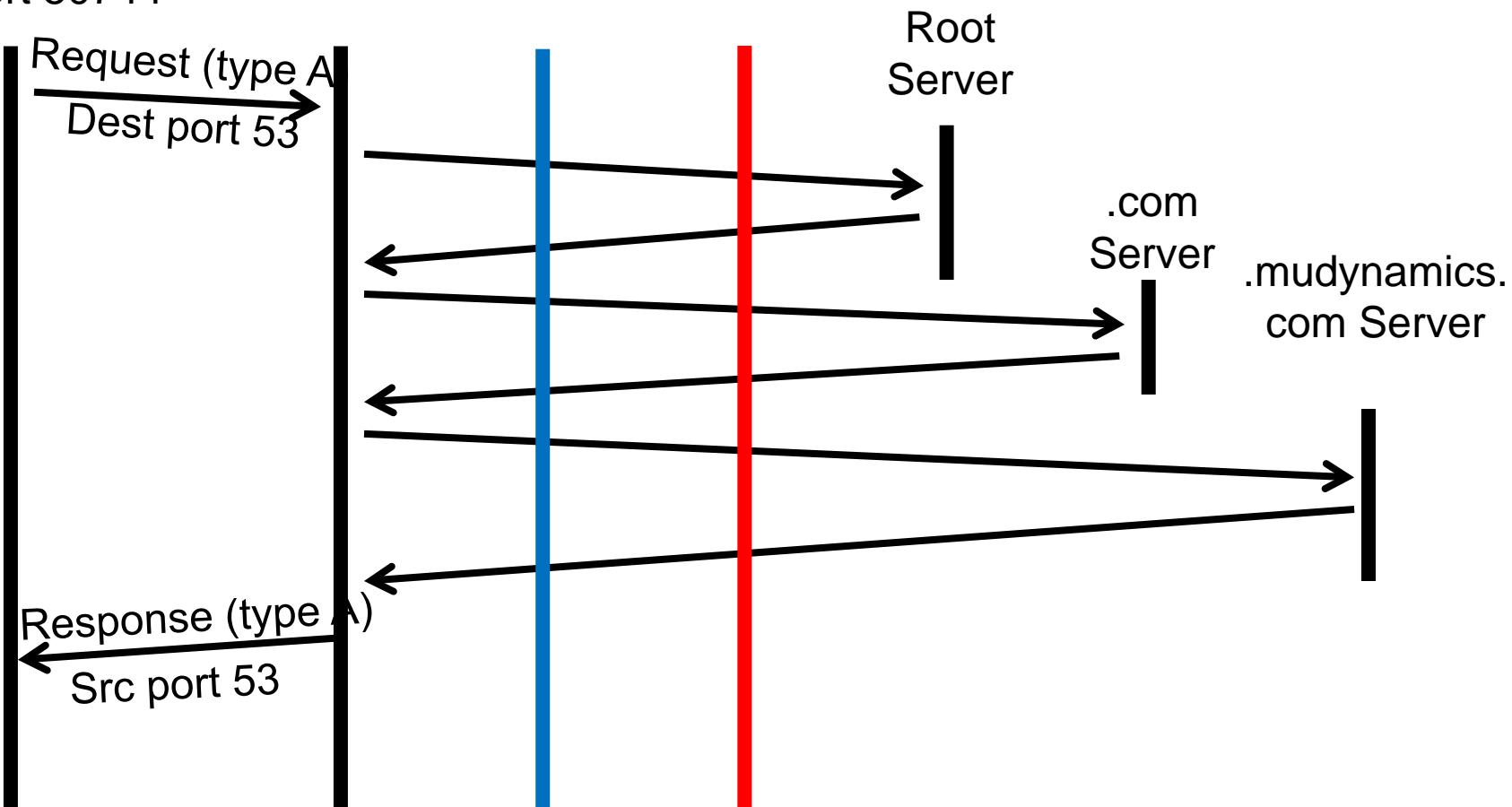


# More Realistic Sequence Diagram

DNS Client  
192.168.1.105  
UDP port 50744

Local Server NAT  
10.1.10.1

Sensor



# What is this? — 1

---

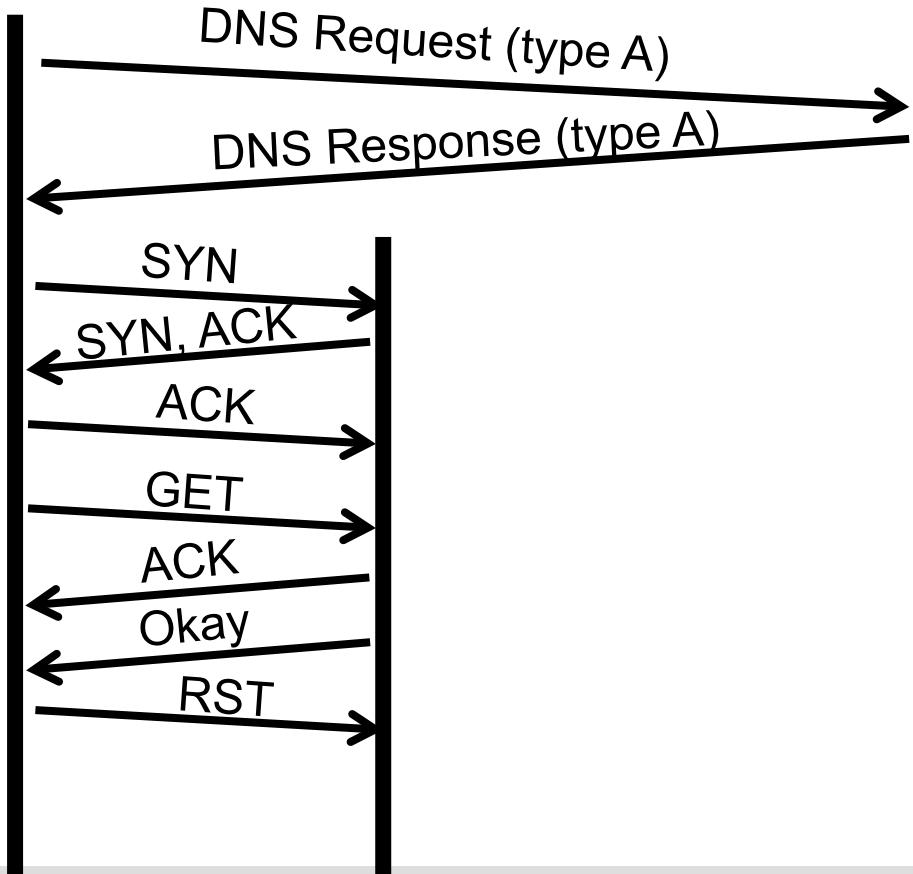
	sIP	dIP	sPort	dPort	proto	packets	flags	initF	type
192.168.1.105	10.1.10.1	50744	53	17		1			out
10.1.10.1	192.168.1.105	53	50744	17		1			in
192.168.1.105	198.51.100.6	49152	80	6		4	SRPA	S	outweb
198.51.100.6	192.168.1.105	80	49152	6		3	S PA	S A	inweb

# HTTP Sequence Diagram

HTTP Client  
192.168.1.105

HTTP Server  
198.51.100.6

DNS Server  
10.1.10.1



# What Is This? — 2

---

sIP	dIP   sPort   dPort   pro   packets   bytes   flags
30.22.105.250   71.55.40.253   52415   25   6   22   14045   FSRPA	
71.55.40.253   30.22.105.250   25   52415   6   19   1283   FS PA	
30.22.105.250   71.55.40.253   52415   25   6   1   40   R	

# What Is This? — 3

---

sIP	dIP	pro	packets	bytes	sTime
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.89	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:04:30.172
99.217.139.155	177.252.149.249	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:04:37.302
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.52	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:04:37.312
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.127	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:04:58.363
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.196	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:04.327
99.217.139.155	177.252.149.30	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:09.242
99.217.139.155	177.252.149.173	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:12.174
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.13	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:14.114
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.56	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:15.383
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.114	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:18.228
99.217.139.155	177.252.202.92	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:22.466
99.217.139.155	177.252.202.68	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:23.497
99.217.139.155	177.252.24.161	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:30.256
99.217.139.155	177.252.202.238	1	2	122	2010/12/08T00:05:33.088

# What Is This? — 4

---

sIP	dIP	sPort	dPort	pkts	bytes	flags	sTime
88.187.13.78	71.55.40.204	40936	80	83	3512	FS PA	2010/12/08T11:00:01
71.55.40.204	88.187.13.78	80	40936	84	104630	FS PA	2010/12/08T11:00:01
88.187.13.78	71.55.40.204	40938	80	120	4973	FS PA	2010/12/08T11:00:04
71.55.40.204	88.187.13.78	80	40938	123	155795	FS PA	2010/12/08T11:00:05
88.187.13.78	71.55.40.204	56172	80	84	3553	FS PA	2010/12/08T12:00:02
71.55.40.204	88.187.13.78	80	56172	83	103309	FS PA	2010/12/08T12:00:02
88.187.13.78	71.55.40.204	56177	80	123	5093	FS PA	2010/12/08T12:00:05
71.55.40.204	88.187.13.78	80	56177	124	157116	FS PA	2010/12/08T12:00:05

# It's All a Matter of Timing

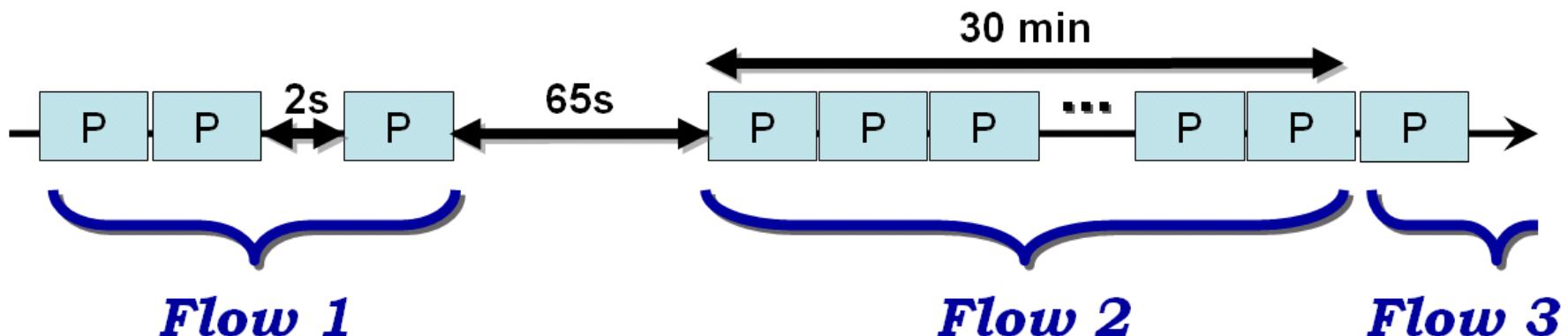
The flow buffer needs to be kept manageable.

## Idle timeout

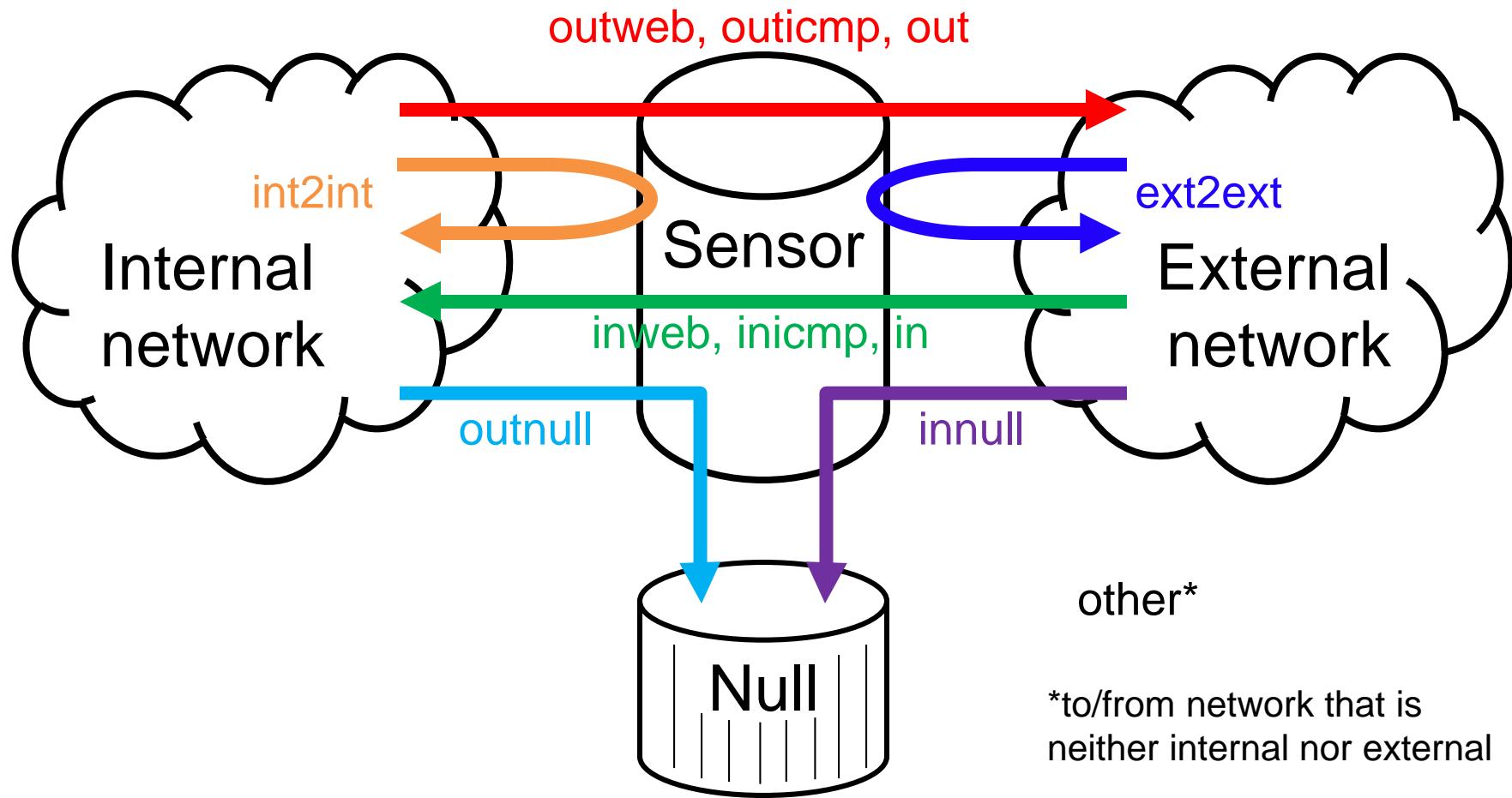
- If there is no activity within 30 seconds (configurable), flush the flow.

## Active timeout

- Flush all flows open for 30 minutes (configurable).



# SiLK Types



\*to/from network that is  
neither internal nor external

# SiLK Types in SiLK

---

Type	Description
<b>inweb</b> , outweb	Inbound/outbound TCP ports 80, 443, 8080
innull, outnull	Inbound/outbound filtered traffic
<b>inicmp</b> , outicmp	Inbound/outbound IP protocol 1
in, out	Inbound/outbound not in above categories
int2int, ext2ext	Internal to internal, external to external
other	Source not internal or external, or destination not internal, external, or null

Names in **bold** are default types

# Outline — 3

---

Introduction: SiLK

Network flow

**Basic SiLK tools**

Advanced SiLK tools

Summary

# UNIX / Linux commands

---

System prompt

Info + prompt character

e.g., ~ 101>

User command

command name      **rwfilter** (case sensitive)

options            -h    --help    -k2    --key=2

arguments            **results.rw**

redirections   >    >>    <

pipe                |

For example:

```
rwcut --all-fields results.rw >results.txt
```

```
rwcut --fields=1-6 results.rw | more
```

Linux is the registered trademark of Linus Torvalds in the U.S. and other countries  
UNIX is a registered trademark of The Open Group

# Some standard Linux commands

---

**ls** – list name & attributes of files and directories

**cd** – change the current working directory

**cat** – output the contents of a file

**more** and **less** – display a file one page at a time

**cut** – output only selected fields of a file

**sort** – reorder the records (lines) of a file

**wc** – word count (optionally, line count) of a file

**exit** – logout & terminate a terminal window

# Linux Standard symbolic files

---

Standard In (**stdin**) – where normal (especially interactive) input comes from

Standard Out (**stdout**) – where normal/expected (especially interactive) output goes to

Standard Error (**stderr**) – where messages (especially unexpected) go to

## Defaults:

**stdin** – keyboard

**stdout** – screen/window

**stderr** – screen/window

Defaults are overridden by redirections and pipes

# Shell Scripts

---

Put a complicated command, pipeline, or sequence of pipelines into a script file.

- It saves your commands for reuse or learning
- It eases making changes

Use the GUI editor **gedit**, or the simple character editors **joe** and **nano** when on a SSH connection. Use **vi** (**vim**) to earn your geek badge. **vi** or **vim** can be found on every Linux/UNIX system.

Name your shell script something like **dothis.sh**

Execute (run) your script: **./dothis.sh**

gedit is the registered trademark of Interactive Graphic Systems, Inc.

SSH is the registered trademark of SSH Communications Security Corp

# Collection, Packing, and Analysis

---

## Collection of flow data

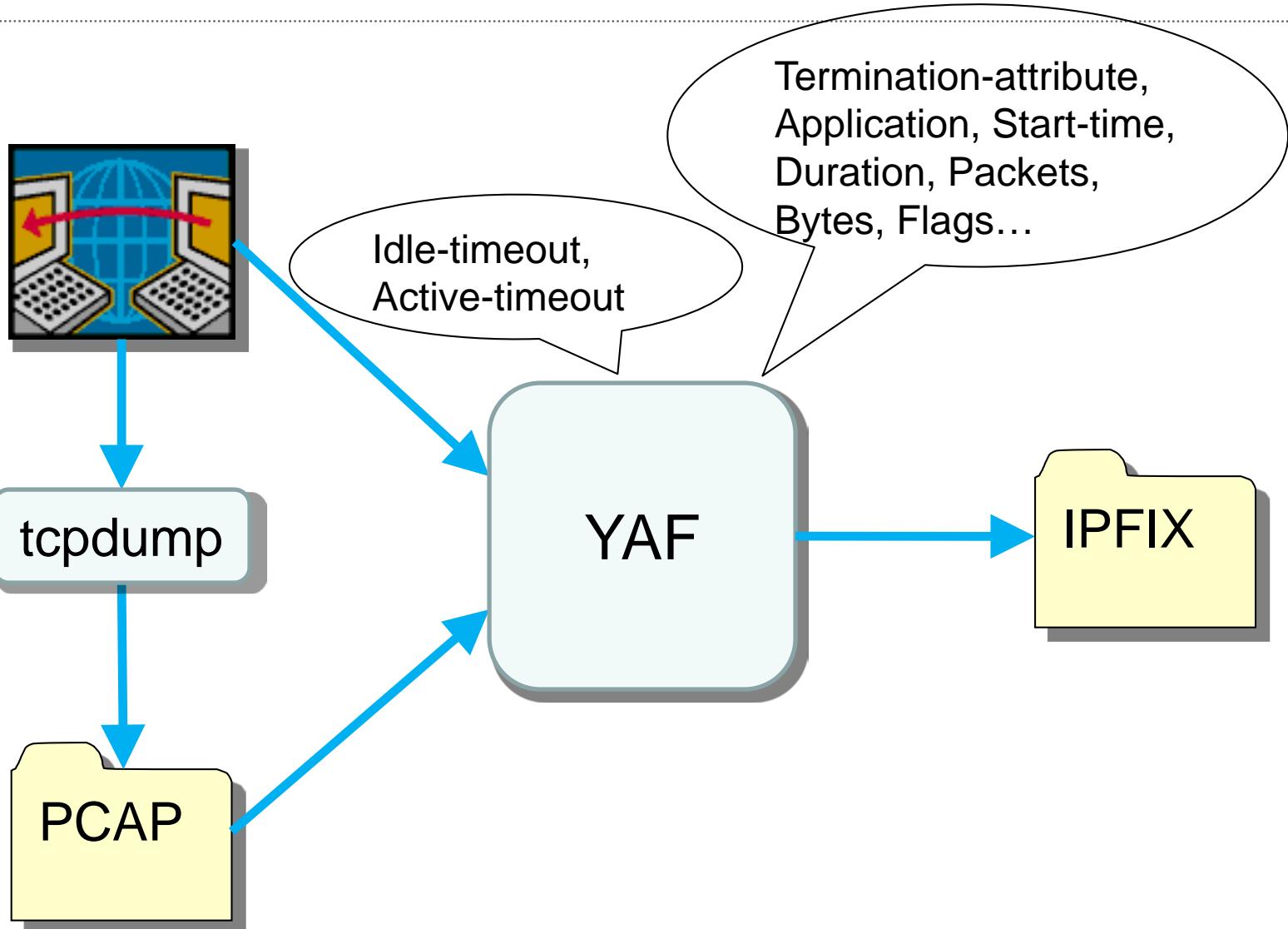
- Examines packets and summarizes into standard flow records
- Timeout and payload-size values are established during collection

Packing stores flow records in a scheme optimized for space and ease of analysis

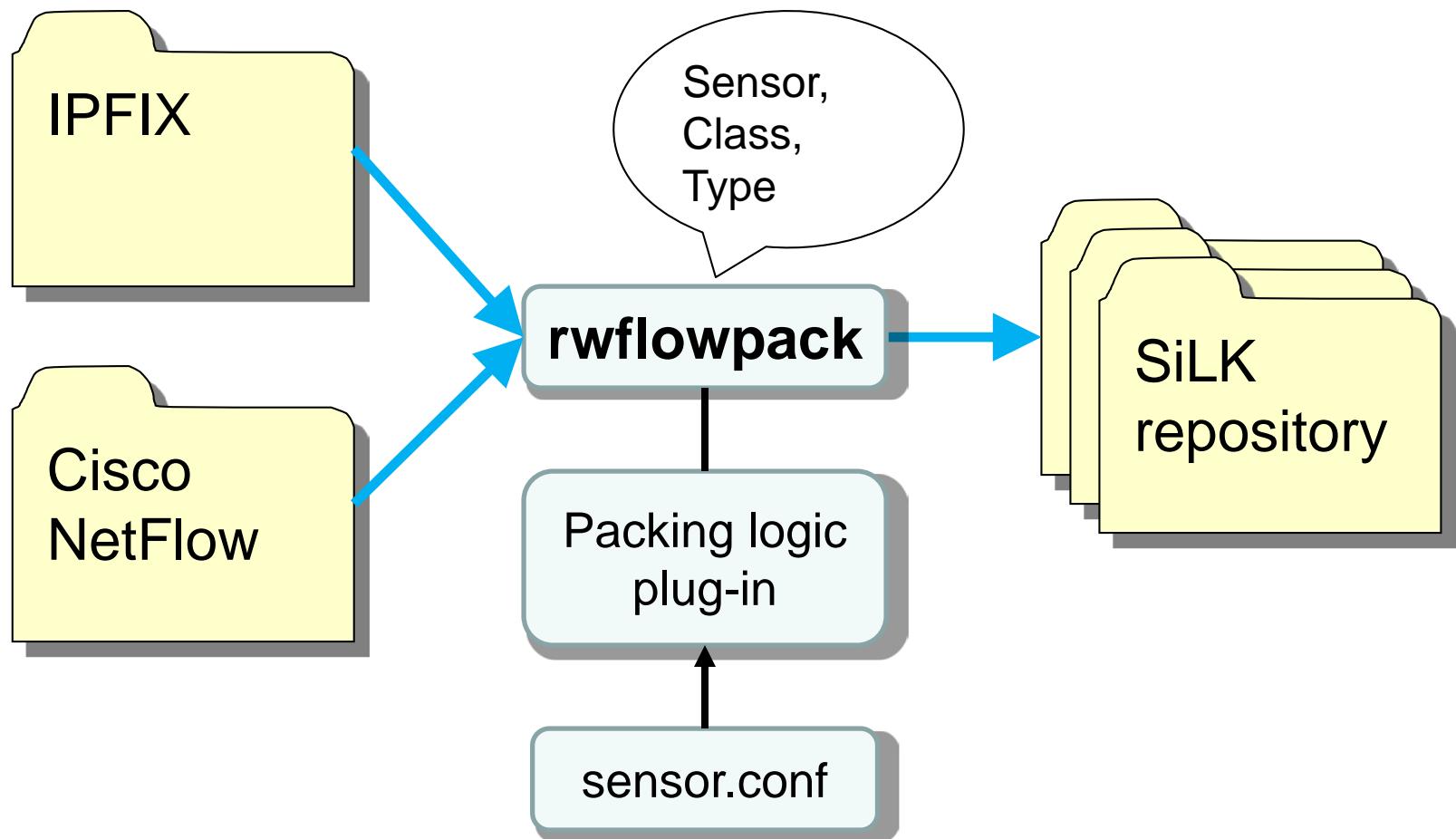
## Analysis of flow data

- Investigation of flow records using SiLK tools

# Collection

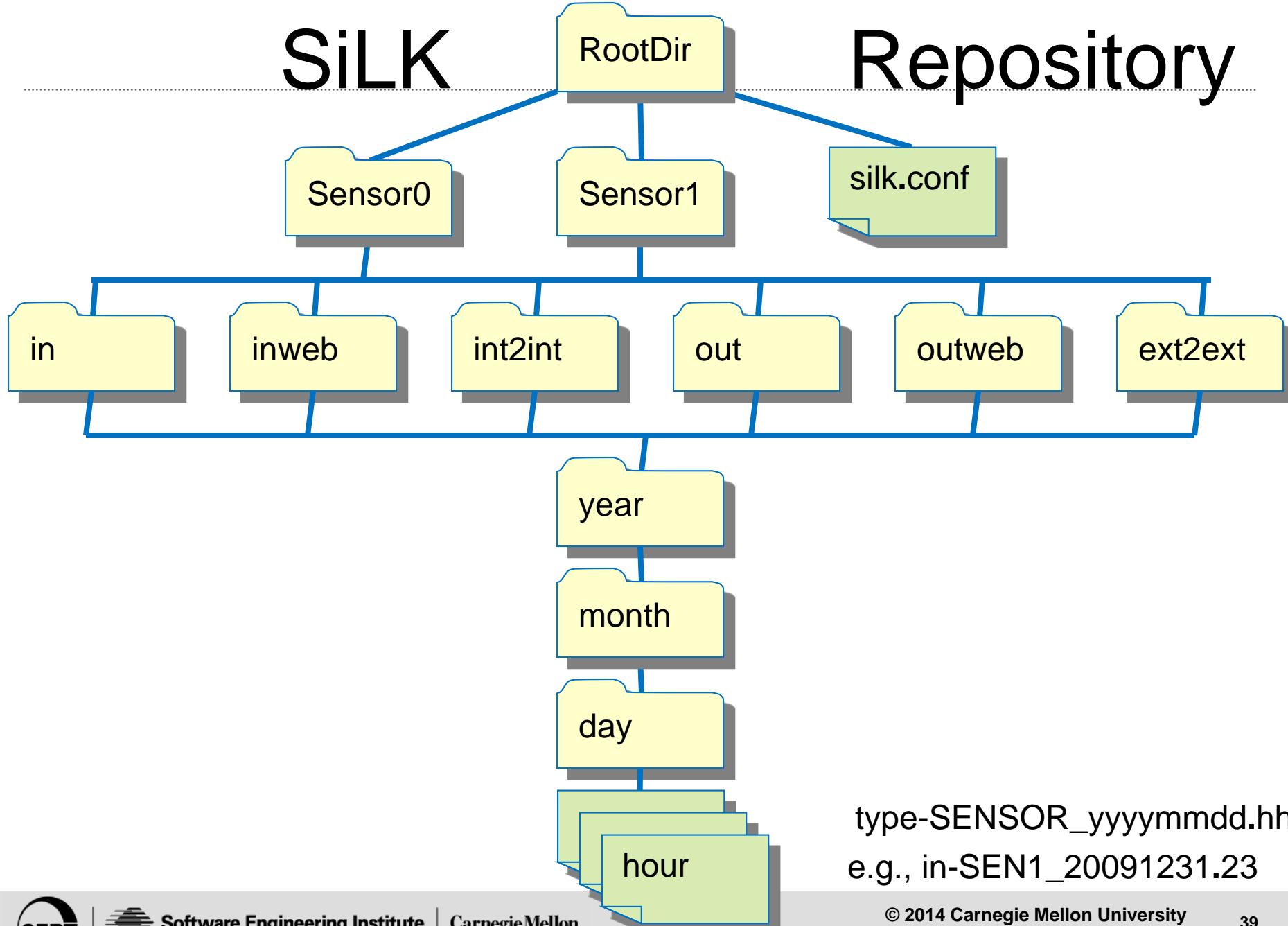


# Packing



# SiLK

# Repository



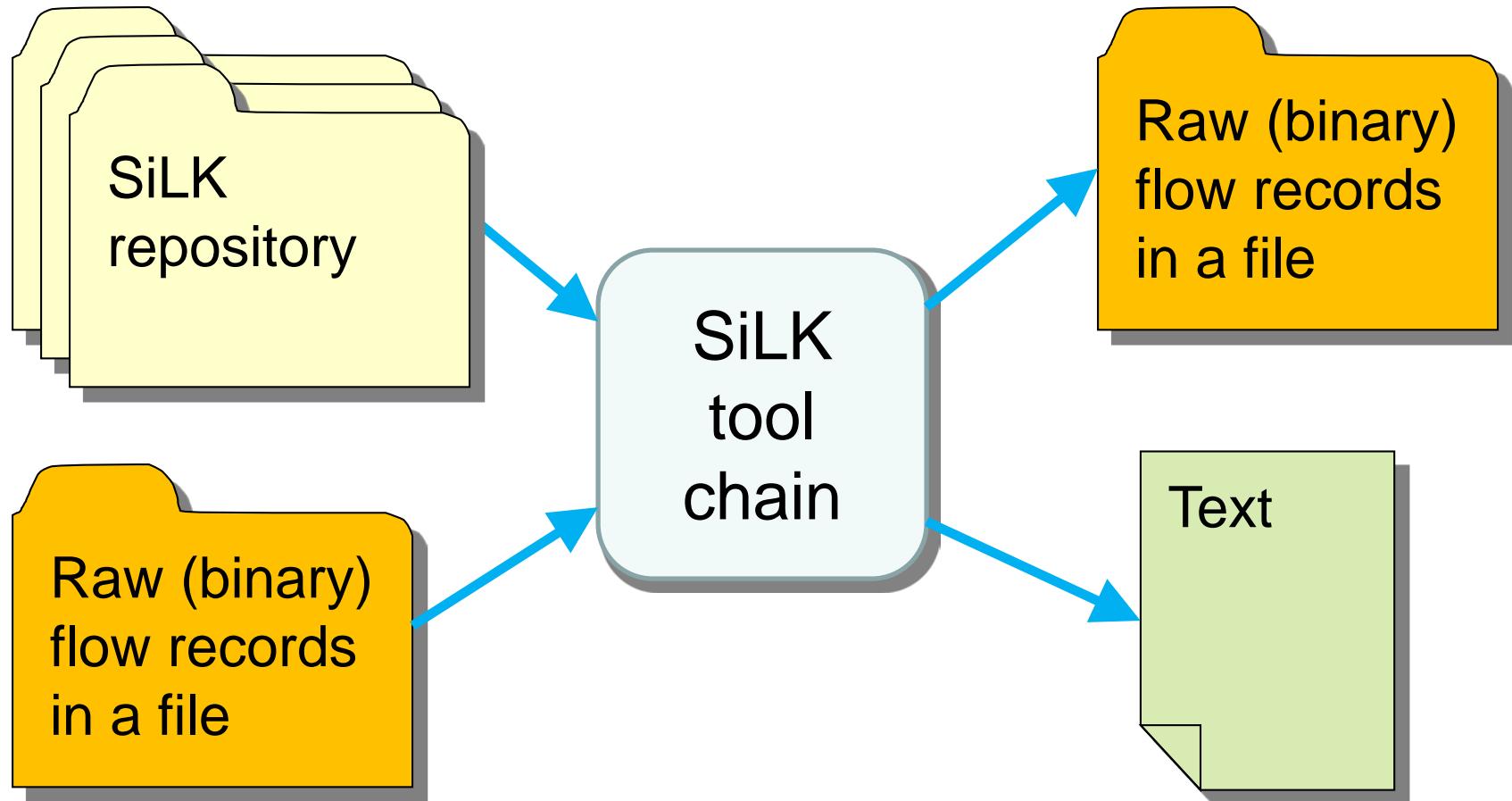
# Linux Exercise

---

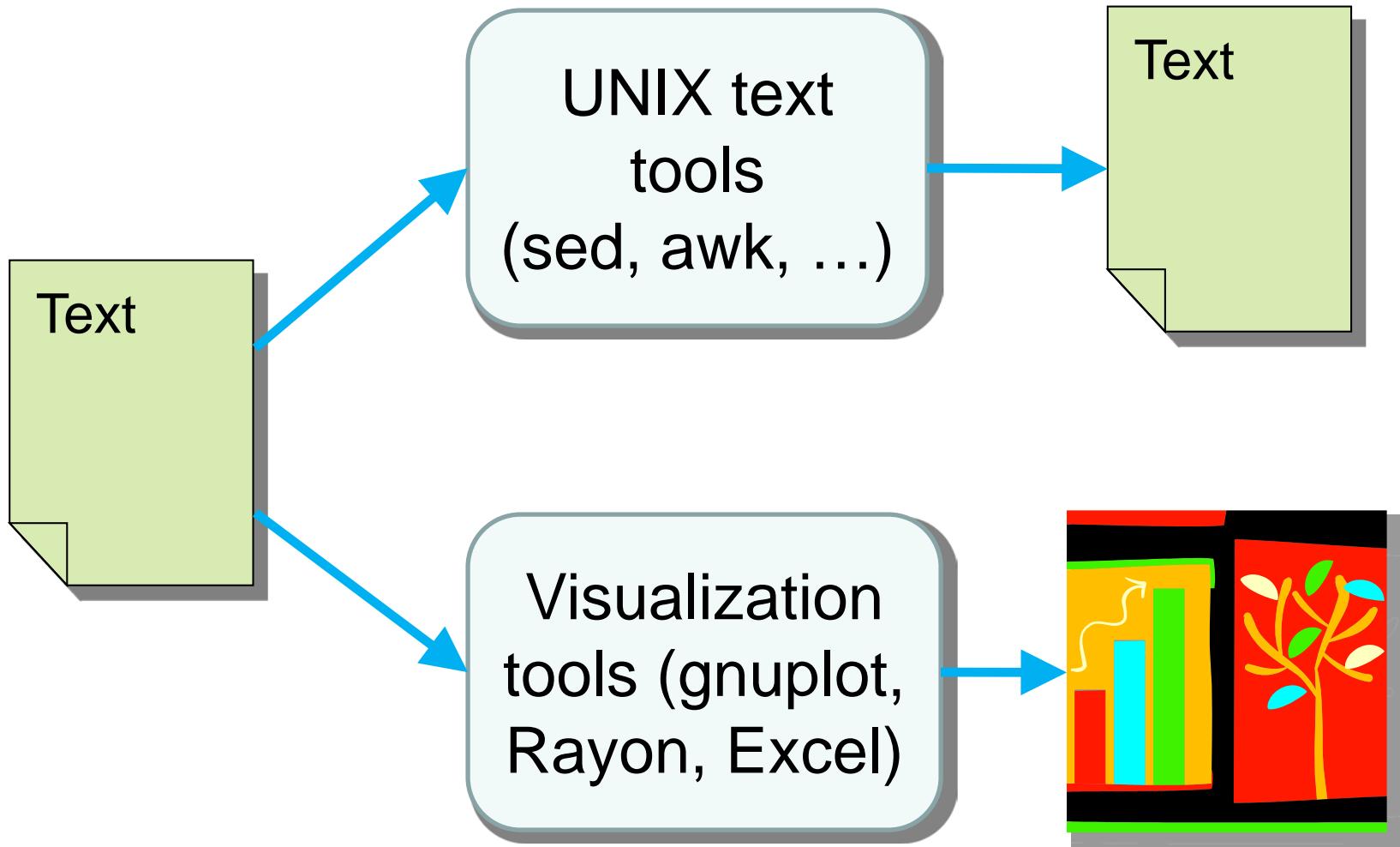
```
PS1=' \W \!> '
export SILK_IPV6_POLICY=asv4
cd /data/bluered
ls -l silk.conf
less silk.conf    # type “q” to exit from less
cd
```

# Analysis

---



# Reporting



Rayon is a trademark of Carnegie Mellon University  
Excel is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation

# So Much to Do, So Little Time...

---

We can't discuss all parameters for every tool.

## Resources

- Analyst's Handbook
- SiLK Reference Guide (hard-copy man pages)
- `--help` option
- `man` command
- `http://tools.netsa.cert.org`

# What sensors are defined?

---

```
rwsiteinfo --fields=id-sensor,sensor  
rwsiteinfo --fields=id-sensor,sensor,\  
    describe-sensor
```

# Basic SiLK Tools: `rwfileinfo`

---

`rwfileinfo` displays a variety of characteristics for each file format produced by the SiLK tool suite.

It is very helpful in tracing how a file was created and where it was generated.

# `rwfileinfo` Example

```
[liveuser@livecd ~]$ rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=in,out \
--start=2009/4/21T15 --protocol=1 \
--pass=icmprecords.rw
```

```
[liveuser@livecd ~]$ rwfileinfo icmprecords.rw
icmprecords.rw:
```

<code>format(id)</code>	<code>FT_RWIPV6ROUTING(0x0C)</code>
<code>version</code>	16
<code>byte-order</code>	<code>littleEndian</code>
<code>compression(id)</code>	<code>lzolx(2)</code>
<code>header-length</code>	176
<code>record-length</code>	88
<code>record-version</code>	1
<code>silk-version</code>	3.9.0
<code>count-records</code>	39
<code>file-size</code>	963
<code>command-lines</code>	

```
1 rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=in,out
```

```
--start=2009/4/21T15 --protocol=1 --pass=icmprecords.rw
```

# **rwfileinfo --fields**

---

All fields available to display

1 <b>format(id)</b>	10 <b>record-version</b>
2 <b>version</b>	11 <b>silk-version</b>
3 <b>byte-order</b>	12 <b>packed-file-info</b>
4 <b>compression(id)</b>	13 <b>probe-name</b>
5 <b>header-length</b>	14 <b>annotations</b>
6 <b>record-length</b>	15 <b>prefix-map</b>
7 <b>count-records</b>	16 <b>ipset</b>
8 <b>file-size</b>	17 <b>bag</b>
9 <b>command-lines</b>	

# Basic SILK Tools: rwcut

---

But I can't read binary...

`rwcut` provides a way to display binary records as human-readable ASCII:

- useful for printing flows to the screen
- useful for input to text-processing tools
- Usually you'll only need the `--fields` option.

sip	packets	type	flags
dip	bytes	in	initialflags
sport	sensor	out	sessionflags
dport	scc	dur	application
protocol	<i>dcc</i>	stime	attributes
class	nhip	<i>etime</i>	<i>itype &amp; icode</i>

Field names in italics are *derived fields*

# rwcut Default Display

---

By default

- sIP, sPort
- dIP, dPort
- protocol
- packets, bytes
- flags
- sTime, eTime, duration
- sensor

**--all-fields**

# Pretty Printing SiLK Output

---

Default output is fixed-width, pipe-delimited data.

sIP	dIP	pro	pkts	bytes
207.240.215.71	128.3.48.203	1	1	60
207.240.215.71	128.3.48.68	1	1	60
207.240.215.71	128.3.48.71	1	1	60

Tools with text output have these formatting options:

- **--no-titles**: suppress the column headings
- **--no-columns**: suppress the spaces
- **--column-separator**: just change the bar to something else
- **--delimited**: combine above 3 options
- **--legacy-timestamps**: better for import to Excel

# What do the data look like?

---

```
rwcut icmprecords.rw --fields=1-6
```

Try other values for **--fields**.

Try omitting the **--fields** option.

# Why do we need rwcut?

---

```
cd  
rwfilter --type=in \  
  --start-d=2009/4/21T15 --proto=0- \  
  --compress=none \  
  --pass-dest=t20.rw --max-pass=20  
ls -l t20.rw  
rwfileinfo t20.rw  
hexdump -C t20.rw # any readable text?  
rwcut --fields=1-6 t20.rw
```

# Basic SiLK Tools: rwsort

---

## Why sort flow records?

- Records are recorded as received, not necessarily in time order.
- Analysis often requires finding outliers.
- You can also sort on other fields such as IP address or port to easily find scanning patterns.
- It allows analysts to find behavior such as beaconing or the start of traffic flooding.

# rwsort Options

---

**--fields** (same as rwcut) is required.

Input files are specified as positional arguments (default is stdin).

**--output-path=** specifies the output file (default is stdout.)

For improved sorts, specify a buffer size with **--sort-buffer-size=**.

For large sorts, specify a temporary directory with **--temp-directory=**.

Temporary files stored in /tmp by default

```
rwsort t20.rw --fields=stime \
  --output-path=t20bystime.rw
```

```
rwsort t20.rw --fields=sip,sport,dport \
| rwuniq --fields=sip,sport,dport --presorted \
  --value=dip-distinct
```

# Basic SiLK Tools: rwfilter

Pick files from the repository

Compression

Basic statistics

Advanced flow-by-flow filtering

Plug in additional tools

Direct flow output



Swiss Army knife logo is a registered trademark of Victorinox AG

# **rwfilter Syntax**

---

## General form

```
rwfilter {INPUT | SELECTION}  
PARTITION OUTPUT [OTHER]
```

## Example call

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=in \  
--start-date=2009/4/21T9 \  
--end-date=2009/4/21T16 \  
--protocol=0-255 --pass=workday-21.rw
```

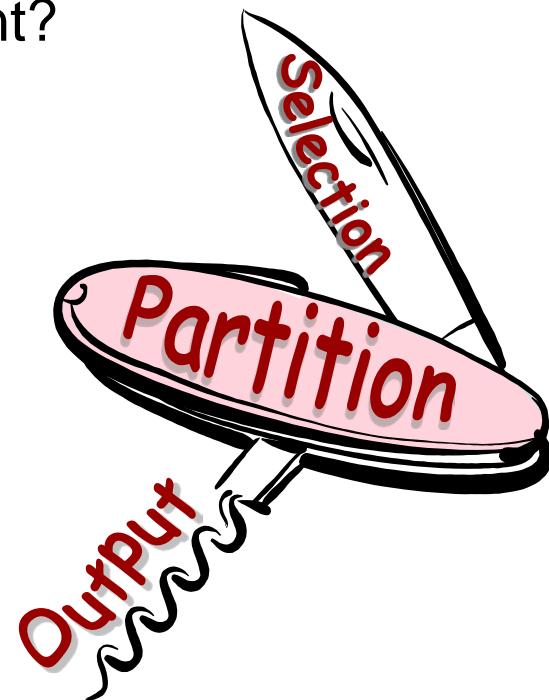
# rwfilter Command Structure

---

The rwfilter command requires three basic parts:

- **selection** criteria or **input** criteria (which files are input?)
  - repository: class, sensor, type, start/end date/hour
- **Partition** (which records pass my criteria? Which fail?)
  - filter options: Which flows do I really want?
- **output** options

Partitioning is the most complex part.



# Selection and Input Criteria

---

Selection options control access to repository files:

- **--start-date=2009/4/21**
- **--end-date=2009/4/21T03**
- **--sensor=S0**
- **--class=all**
- **--type=in,inweb**

Alternatively, use input criteria for a pipe or a file:

- **myfile.rw**
- **stdin**
- useful for chaining filters through stdin/stdout



# --start-date and --end-date

		--start-date		
		Hour	Day	None
--end-date	Hour	Hours in explicit range	Ignore end-date hour. Whole days.	Error
	Day	End-hour is the same as start-hour. $\#hours = 1, 25, 49, \dots$	Whole days.	Error
	None	1 hour	1 day	Current day to present time.

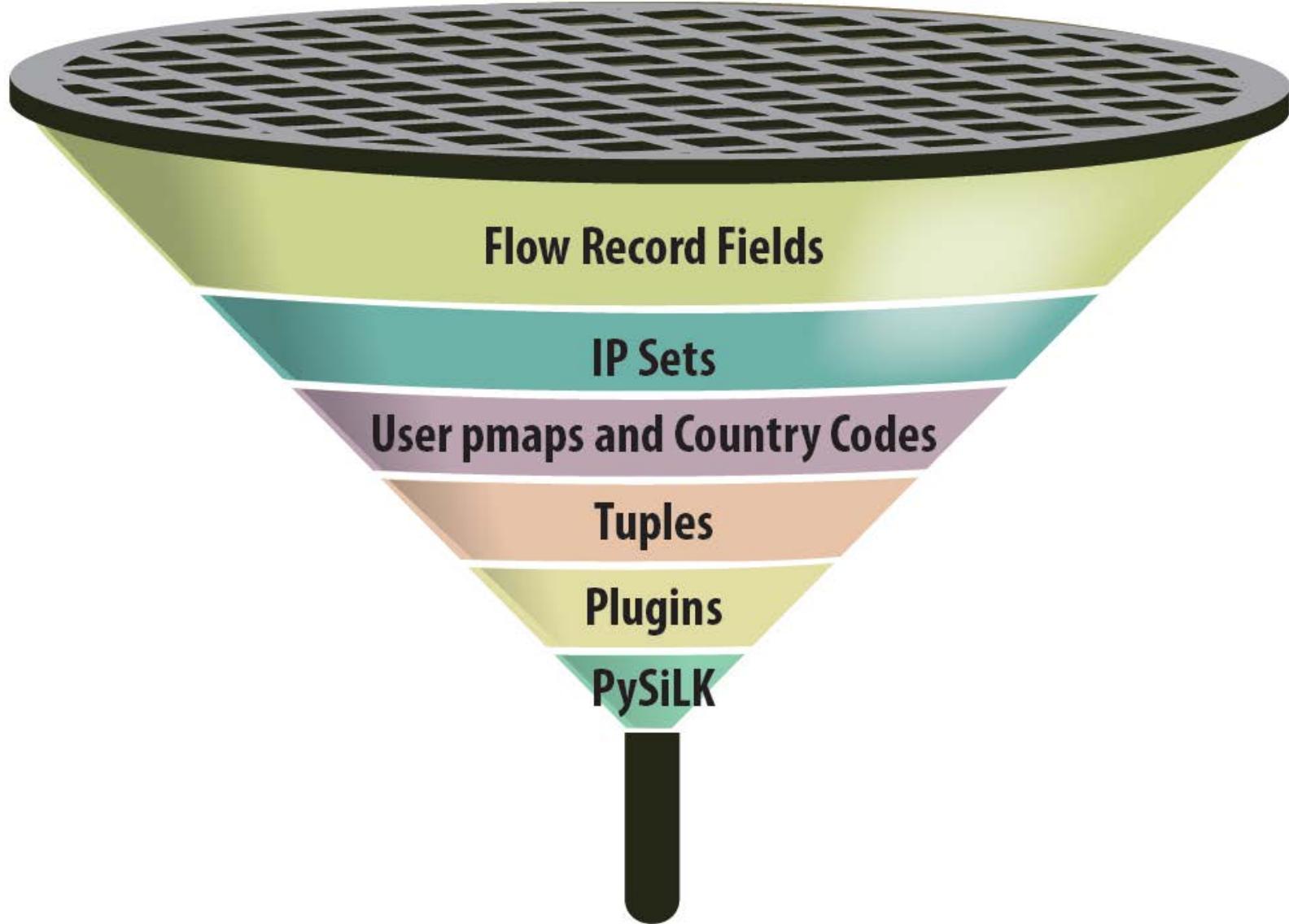
# How Many Files are Selected?

---

#Files = Sensors

- x Types
- x Hours
- missing files

# **rwfilter Partitioning Parameters**



# Basic Partitioning Options

---

- Simple numeric fields: ports, protocol, ICMP Type
- Specified IP addresses, CIDR blocks, & wildcards
- Sets of IP addresses
- Combinations of key fields – Tuples

# Simple Numeric Key Fields

---

--protocol=			
--sport=	--dport=	--aport=	# source, dest, any
--protocol=6,17			# TCP or UDP
--protocol=1-5,7-16,18-			# not TCP or UDP
--protocol=0-			# all protocols
--dport=80,443			# HTTP or HTTPS
--sport=6000-6063,9100-9107			# X11 or JetDirect
--aport=20,21			# FTP
--sport=0-1023			# Well Known Ports

# ICMP Types and Codes

---

--icmp-type            major type of ICMP message

--icmp-code            sub-type of ICMP message

--icmp-type=0,8        # ping request & reply

--icmp-type=3 --icmp-code=4        # fragm'n needed

# Specified IP address, CIDR block, or wildcard

---

--**saddress**=      --**daddress**=      --any-address=  
--not-**saddress**= --not-**daddress**= --not-any-address=

May specify a single:

IP address	192.0.2.1
CIDR block	192.0.2.0/24
wildcard pattern	172.16-31.x.1,254
addrs in same subnet	<u>203.0.113.1,3,7,13,19</u>

# Specified IP addresses or CIDR blocks

---

--scidr=

--dcidr=

--any-cidr=

--not-scidr=

--not-dcidr=

--not-any-cidr=

May specify multiple:

IP addresses      192.0.2.1,198.51.100.3

CIDR blocks      192.0.2.0/24,198.51.100.0/24

mixture            192.0.2.1,192.0.2.8/29

NO wildcard patterns

# Sets of arbitrary addresses

---

--sipset=

--dipset=

--anyset=

--not-sipset=

--not-dipset=

--not-anyset=

Specifies the name of a file storing the IP set:

--sipset=internalservers.set

--dipset=RussianBizNtwk.set

--anyset=TorNodes.set

--not-dipset=whitelist.set

# Combinations of key fields – Tuples

--tuple-file=TorAuthSockets.tuple --tuple-dir=reverse

*TorAuthSockets.tuple* file:

sIP	sPort
208.83.223.34	443
82.94.251.203	80
193.23.244.244	80
194.109.206.212	80
86.59.21.38	80
128.31.0.34	9131
171.25.193.9	443
154.35.32.5	80
212.112.245.170	80
76.73.17.194	9030

# **rwfilter output options**

---

--pass-destination= # file to get records that pass  
--fail-destination= # file to get records that fail  
--all-destination= # file to get all records

--print-statistics # report recs read/pass/fail  
--print-volume-statistics # report how many  
# recs/pkts/bytes pass/fail

# What Is This? — 5

---

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=in \
--start=2009/4/21T00 --end=2009/4/21T07 \
--daddress=10.1.0.0/16 --print-volume-stat
```

	Recs	Packets	Bytes	Files
Total	1436	2615	158084	8
Pass	1436	2615	158084	
Fail	0	0	0	

# rwfilter exercise

---

- 1) Find all traffic captured by sensor S0 going outbound to external HTTPS servers on April 21, 2009. Save these flows in file https0421.rw
- 2) How many flow records matched the criteria?

# rwfilter exercise solution

---

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=outweb \
--start=2009/4/21 --dport=443 \
--pass=https0421.rw --print-volume-statistics
```

	Recs	Packets	Bytes	Files	
Total	43656	173550	36174384	24	
Pass	<b>123</b>	1420	288083		
Fail	43533	172130	35886301		

```
rwfileinfo https0421.rw --fields=count
```

https0421.rw:

count-records **123**

# Output Criteria

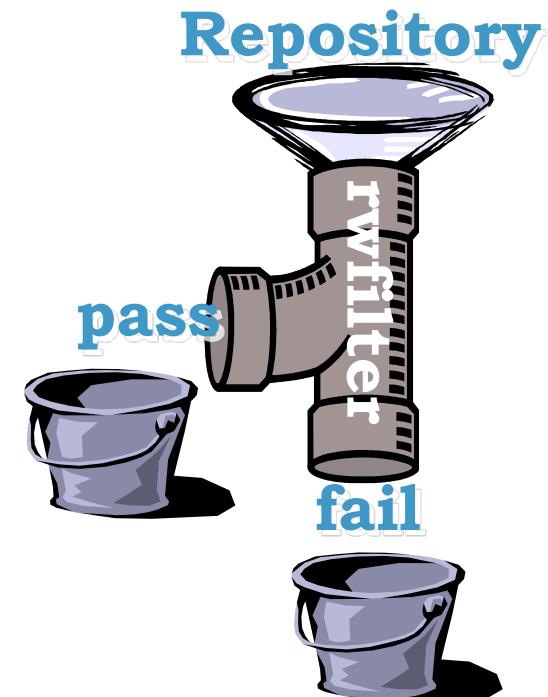
---

`rwfilter` leaves the flows in binary (compact) form.

- **--pass**, **--fail**: direct the flows to a file or a pipe
- **--all**: destination for everything pulled from the repository
- One output is required but more than one can be used (no screen allowed).

Other useful output

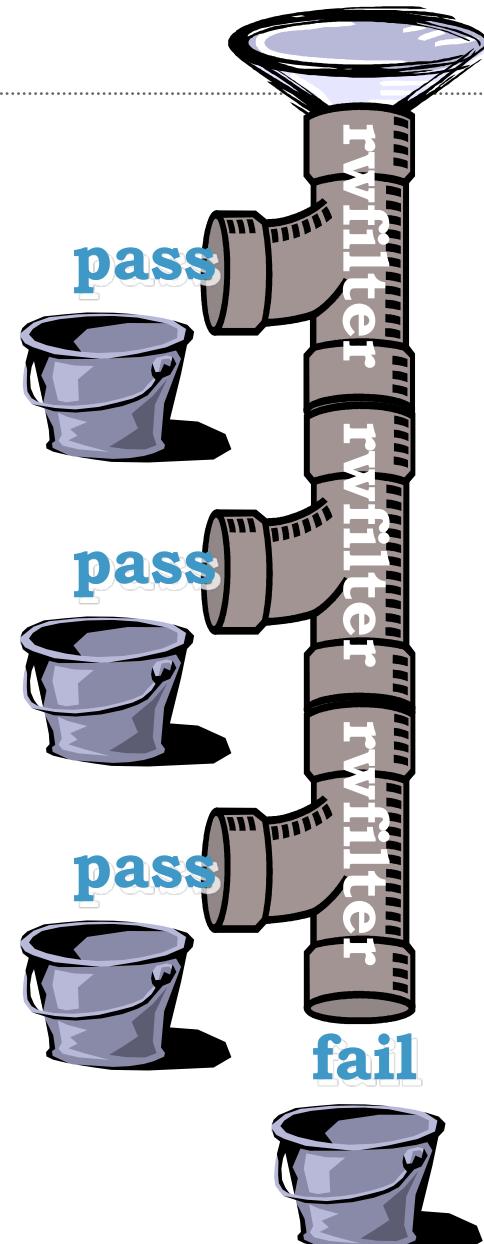
- **--print-filenames** ,  
**--print-missing-files**
- **--print-statistics** or  
**--print-volume-statistics**



# Chaining Filters

It is often very efficient to chain `rwfilter` commands together:

- Use `--pass` and `--fail` to segregate bins.
- Use `--all`, so you only pull from the repository once.



# What Is This? — 8

---

```
rwfilter \
    --start-date=2010/12/08 \
    --type=outweb \
    --bytes=100000- \
    --pass=stdout \
| rwfilter \
    stdin \
    --duration=60- \
    --pass=long-http.rw \
    --fail=short-http.rw
```

# Tips with `rwfilter`

---

Narrow time, type, and sensor as much as possible (fewer records to check).

Include as many partitioning parameters as possible (easy to be vague and get too much data).

Can do multiple queries and merge results

Can do further filtering to narrow results

Iterative exploration

# Example Typos

--port=	No such keywords
--destport=	
--sip= or --dip=	
--saddress=danset.set	Needs value not filename
--start-date=2006/06/12--end-date	Spaces needed
--start-date = 2006/06/12	No spaces around equals
start-date=2006/06/12	Need dashes
---start-date=2006/06/12	Only two dashes
--start-date=2005/11/04:06:00:00 --end-date=2005/05/21:17:59:59	Only down to hour

# **SiLK Commandments**

---

- 1.Thou shalt use Sets instead of using several rwfilter commands to pull data for multiple IP addresses**
- 2.Thou shalt store intermediate data on local disks, not network disks.**
- 3.Thou shalt make initial pulls from the repository, store the results in a file, and work on the file from then on. The repository is slower than processing a single file.**
- 4.Thou shalt work in binary for as long as possible. ASCII representations are much larger and slower than the binary representations of SiLK data.**
- 5.Thou shalt filter no more than a week of traffic at a time. The filter runs for excessive length of time otherwise.**
- 6.Thou shalt only run a few rwfilter commands at once.**
- 7.Thou shalt specify the type of traffic to filter. Defaults work in mysterious ways.**
- 8.Thou shalt appropriately label all output.**
- 9.Thou shalt check that SiLK does not provide a feature before building your own.**

# Basic SiLK Counting Tools: `rwcount`, `rwstats`, `rwuniq`

---

“Count [volume] by [key field] and print [summary]”

- basic bandwidth study:
  - “Count bytes by hour and print the results.”
- top 10 talkers list:
  - “Count bytes by source IP and print the 10 highest IPs.”
- user profile:
  - “Count records by dIP-dPort pair and print all the pairs.”
- potential scanners:
  - “Count unique dIPs by sIP and print the sources that contacted more than 100 destinations.”

# Bins

For motor vehicle trips we could bin by:

Vehicle style – sedan, coupe, SUV, pickup, van

Highway or city trip

Personal or business trip

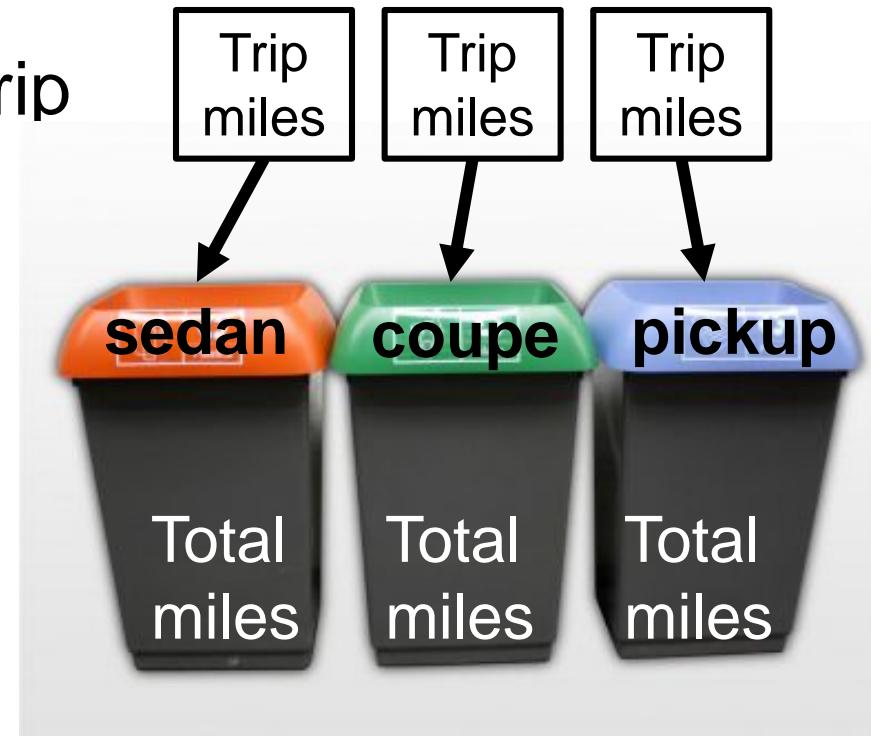
We could measure the trips  
and aggregate in bins:

total miles

fuel consumption

oil consumption

pollutant emission



<http://www.prlog.org/10991533-great-value-good-looking-colour-coded-recycling-bins-exclusive-to-imrubbishcouk.html>

# Bins

---

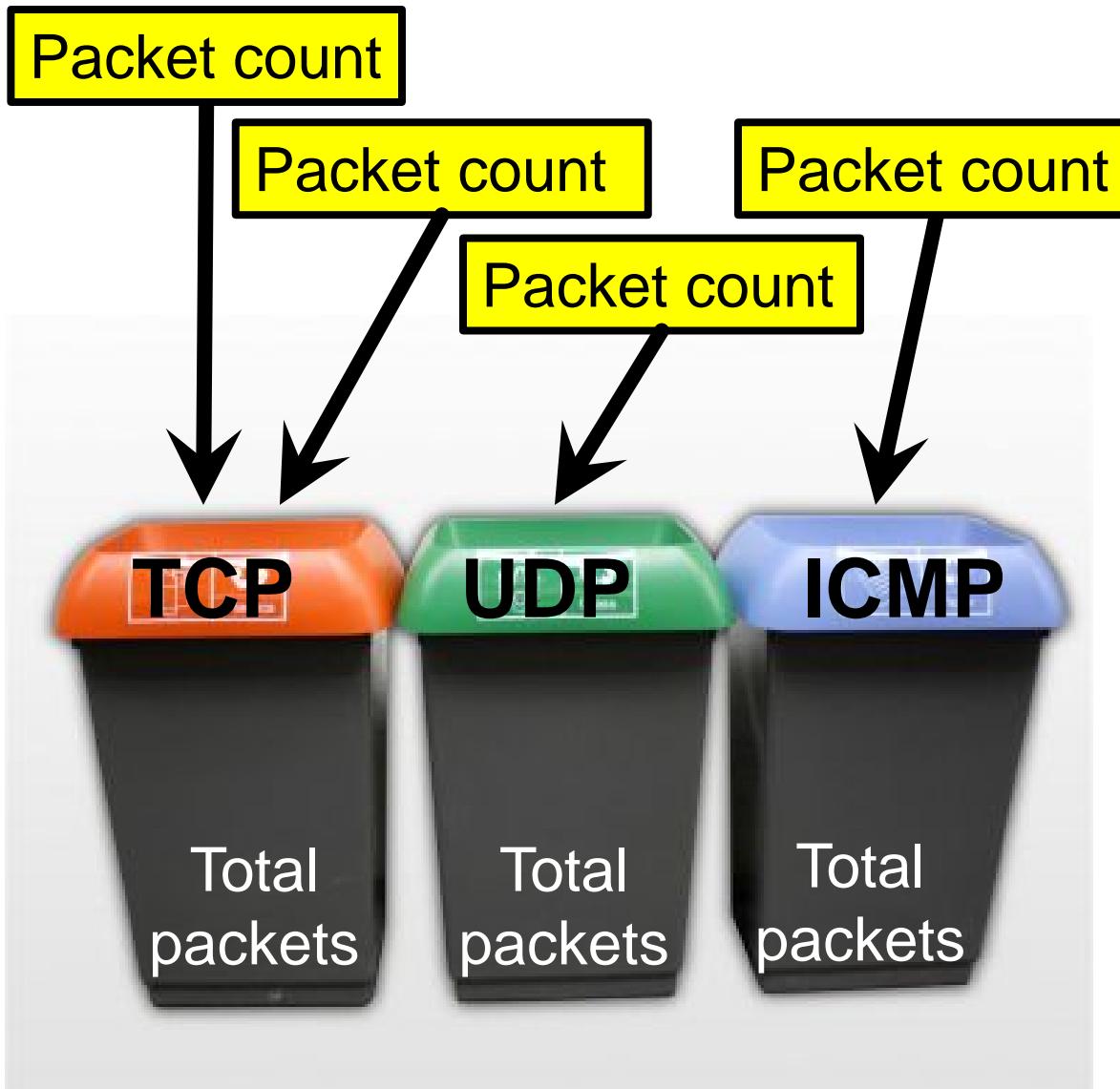
For flows we could bin by:

- address or address block
- port
- protocol
- time period

We could measure the flows and aggregate in bins:

- count of flow records, packets, bytes
- count of distinct values of other fields, e.g., addr
- earliest sTime, latest eTime

# Bins



**Value**

from flow record  
e.g., packets

**Bin key field**  
e.g., protocol

**Aggregate Value**

# Basic SiLK Counting Tools: `rwcount`, `rwstats`, `rwuniq`

---

`rwcount`: count volume across time periods

`rwstats`: count volume across IP, port, or protocol and create descriptive statistics

`rwuniq`: count volume across any combination of SiLK fields

“Key field” = SiLK fields defining bins

“Volume” = {Records, Bytes, Packets} and a few others

measure

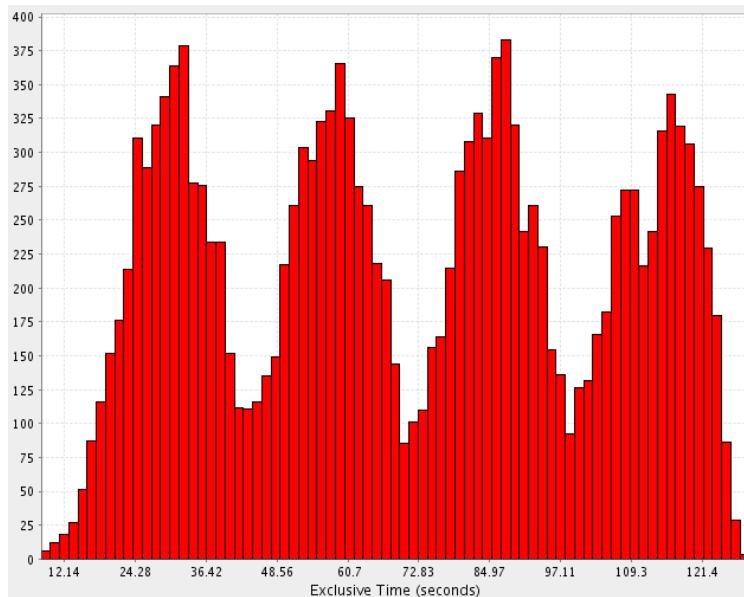
aggregate value

Each tool reads raw binary flow records as input.

# rwCount

---

- count records, bytes, and packets by time and display results
- fast, easy way of summarizing volumes as a time series
- great for simple bandwidth studies
- easy to take output and make a graph with graphing S/W



<http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/tau/docs/paraprof/ch05s02.html>

# Time Bins

---

When binning by time, you must specify the period of time for each bin. This is called the **bin-size**. It's the size of the bin's opening, not the volume of the container.

← bin-size →



# rwcount

---

The bin key is always time. You choose the period.  
The aggregate measures are chosen for you. They  
are flows/records, bytes, packets.

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --start=2009/4/21 \
    --type=in --proto=1 --pass=stdout \
| rwcount --bin-size=3600
```

Date	Records	Bytes	Packets
...			
2009/04/21T13:00:00	10.00	2460.00	41.00
2009/04/21T14:00:00	29.00	8036.00	107.00
2009/04/21T15:00:00	22.00	2214.00	47.00
2009/04/21T16:00:00	10.00	1586.00	23.00
...			

# What Is This? — 9

---

```
rwcount MSSP.rw --bin-size=3600
```

Date	Records	Bytes	Packets
2010/12/08T00:00:00	1351571.66	73807086.40	1606313.61
2010/12/08T01:00:00	1002012.43	54451440.59	1185143.62
2010/12/08T02:00:00	1402404.61	77691865.26	1675282.27
2010/12/08T03:00:00	1259973.65	68575249.90	1491393.08
2010/12/08T04:00:00	939313.56	51410968.24	1118584.81
2010/12/08T05:00:00	459564.75	80862273.32	1742058.62
2010/12/08T06:00:00	1280651.23	69881126.41	1519435.24

...

# rwcount Demo

---

The shell can help with the arithmetic:  $\$((24*60*60))$

You also can find common periods in the Quick Reference Guide.

Time series for all outgoing traffic on S0:

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=out,outweb \
--start=2009/04/21 --end=2009/04/23 \
--proto=0- --pass=stdout \
| rwcount --bin-size=$((24*60*60))
```

# rwcount Exercise

---

Produce a time-series with 30-minute intervals, analyzing incoming ICMP traffic collected at sensor S0 on April 21, 2009.

# **rwcount Exercise solution**

---

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=in,inicmp \
--start=2009/04/21 --proto=1 \
--pass=stdout \
```

```
| rwcount --bin-size=1800
```

Date	Records	Bytes	Packets
------	---------	-------	---------

...

2009/04/21T13:00:00	5.00	960.00	16.00
2009/04/21T13:30:00	5.00	1500.00	25.00
2009/04/21T14:00:00	22.00	3900.00	65.00
2009/04/21T14:30:00	7.00	4136.00	42.00
2009/04/21T15:00:00	6.00	364.00	13.00
2009/04/21T15:30:00	16.00	1850.00	34.00
2009/04/21T16:00:00	8.00	934.00	19.00

...

# rwcount --load-scheme

How are records, packets, and bytes allocated to flows that span time bins?



## Scheme



# **rwcount --load-scheme**

---

How do I choose a loading scheme? (hint: use default)

- 0 – Average load/bin (smooth peaks/valleys among bins)
- 1 – Flow onset / periodic behavior emphasis
- 2 – Emphasize flow termination
- 3 – Emphasize payload transfer above setup/termination
- 4 – Average load/time (smooth peaks/valleys over time)
- 5 – Worst case service loading
- 6 – Best case service loading

Most commonly used schemes are: 4, 0, 1

# Calling rwstats

---

## **rwstats --overall-stats**

- Descriptive statistics on byte and packet counts by record
- See “man rwstats” for details.

## **rwstats --fields=KEY --value=VOLUME --count=N or --threshold=N or --percentage=N [ --top or --bottom ]**

- Choose one or two key fields.
- Count one of records, bytes, or packets.
- Great for Top-N lists and count thresholds
- (standard output formatting options – see “man rwstats”)

# What Is This? – 10

---

```
rwfilter outtraffic.rw \
    --stime=2010/12/08T18:00:00-2010/12/08T18:59:59 \
    --pass=stdout \
| rwstats --fields=sip --values=bytes --count=10

INPUT: 1085277 Records for 1104 Bins and 4224086177 Total Bytes
OUTPUT: Top 10 Bins by Bytes
```

sIP	Bytes	%Bytes	cumul_%
71.55.40.62	1754767148	41.541935	41.541935
71.55.40.169	1192063164	28.220617	69.762552
71.55.40.179	331310772	7.843372	77.605923
71.55.40.204	170966278	4.047415	81.653338
177.249.19.217	122975880	2.911301	84.564639
71.55.40.72	110726717	2.621318	87.185957
71.55.40.200	101593627	2.405103	89.591060
177.71.129.255	40166574	0.950894	90.541954
71.55.40.91	35316554	0.836076	91.378030
149.249.114.204	26634602	0.630541	92.008571

# **rwstats Exercise 1**

---

What are the top 10 incoming protocols on April 22, 2009, collected on sensor S0?

# **rwstats Exercise 1 solution**

---

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=in,inweb \
--start=2009/04/22 --prot=0- --pass=stdout \
| rwstats --fields=protocol --value=rec --count=10
```

INPUT: 337595 Records for 4 Bins and  
337595 Total Records

OUTPUT: Top 10 Bins by Records

proto	Records	%Records	cumul_%
6	336037	99.538500	99.538500
17	1467	0.434544	99.973045
1	88	0.026067	99.999111
132	3	0.000889	100.000000

# **rwstats Exercise 2**

---

Top 10 inside hosts according to how many outside hosts they communicate with.

Use **--value=distinct:dip**

# rwstats Exercise 2 solution

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=out,outweb --proto=0- \  
--start-d=2009/4/22 --pass=stdout \  
| rwstats --fields=sip --value=distinct:dip --count=10
```

INPUT: 313028 Records for 7 Bins

OUTPUT: Top 10 Bins by dIP-Distinct

SIP	dIP-Distin	%dIP-Disti	cumul_%
10.1.60.187	50	?	?
10.1.60.5	26	?	?
10.1.60.25	17	?	?
10.1.60.73	14	?	?
10.1.60.191	11	?	?
10.1.60.251	9	?	?
10.1.60.132	3	?	?

--no-percents will clean up the question marks.

# **rwuniq**

---

Unlike rwstats, rwuniq will display all the bins, not just the top or bottom N bins.

Output is normally unsorted. --sort-output causes sorting by the key (bin), unlike rwstats which sorts by aggregate value.

# Calling `rwuniq`

---

**`rwuniq --fields=KEY --value=VOLUME`**

- Choose one or several key fields.
- Aggregate volume count: records, bytes, or packets.
- (standard output formatting options – see “man rwuniq”)

Apply thresholds to bins before outputting:

- **--bytes**, **--packets**, **--flows**, **--sip-distinct**,  
**--dip-distinct**
- Specify minimum aggregate value or a range

**--sort-output** by key (**rwstats** sorts by value)

# What Is This? – 11

---

```
rwfilter outtraffic.rw \
--stime=2010/12/08:18:00:00-2010/12/08:18:59:59 \
--saddress=71.55.40.62 --pass=stdout \
| rwuniq --fields=dip,sport --all-counts --sort-output
```

dIP	sPort	Bytes	Packets	Records	sTime-Earliest	eTime-Latest
12.113.41.190	80	12782	20	4	2010/12/08T18:42:51	2010/12/08T18:58:49
30.182.228.143	80	203907933	143611	2	2010/12/08T18:53:59	2010/12/08T19:01:47
37.153.24.229	80	205628625	144829	2	2010/12/08T18:29:11	2010/12/08T18:42:51
82.180.203.87	80	213013145	150896	92	2010/12/08T18:06:36	2010/12/08T18:32:33
82.180.203.197	80	800	8	2	2010/12/08T18:43:30	2010/12/08T18:43:30
88.124.166.233	80	223930369	158276	97	2010/12/08T18:08:55	2010/12/08T18:32:25
88.124.166.233	443	509285	732	43	2010/12/08T18:06:57	2010/12/08T18:51:11
94.239.226.247	80	124833037	96047	3	2010/12/08T18:25:22	2010/12/08T19:21:34
109.95.61.80	80	8467397	6325	90	2010/12/08T18:08:59	2010/12/08T18:10:09
139.65.186.4	80	204123360	143794	3	2010/12/08T18:19:48	2010/12/08T18:26:36
139.177.10.136	80	407978375	287354	6	2010/12/08T18:20:03	2010/12/08T19:01:30
198.237.16.172	80	159066748	112025	1	2010/12/08T18:18:43	2010/12/08T18:46:55
219.149.72.154	1024	44	1	1	2010/12/08T18:50:40	2010/12/08T18:50:40
249.216.88.172	80	88	2	2	2010/12/08T18:44:42	2010/12/08T18:44:47
250.211.100.88	80	3295160	2492	42	2010/12/08T18:47:50	2010/12/08T18:58:53

# What Is This? – 12

---

```
rwuniq outtraffic.rw --fields=dip \
--values=sip-distinct,records,bytes --sip-distinct=400- \
--sort-output
```

dIP   sIP-Distin	Bytes	Records
13.220.28.183   512	20480	512
171.128.2.27   448	19069280	476732
171.128.2.179   448	139501200	3487530
171.128.212.14   448	139467440	3486686
171.128.212.124   448	127664480	3191612
171.128.212.127   448	66611560	1665289
171.128.212.188   448	139467680	3486692
171.128.212.228   448	139393160	3484829
245.225.153.120   763	30520	763
245.238.193.102   1339	179480	4487

# rwuniq vs. rwstats

<b>rwuniq</b>	<b>both</b>	<b>rwstats in top/bottom mode</b>
all bins except per thresholds	Bin by key	--top or --bottom bins
	Default aggregate value is flows (records)	
--sort-output by key otherwise unsorted		Sorted by primary aggregate value
Thresholds or ranges: --bytes, --packets, --flows, --sip-distinct, --dip-distinct	Choose which bins have aggregate values significant enough to output.	--count, --threshold, --percentage
--all-counts (bytes, pkts, flows, earliest sTime, and latest eTime)	Show volume aggregate value[s]	--no-percents (good when primary aggregate isn't Bytes, Packets, or Records)
	--bin-time to adjust sTime and eTime	
	--presorted-input (omit when value includes Distinct fields, even if input is sorted)	
--values=sTime-Earliest, eTime-Latest	--values=Records, Packets, Bytes, sIP-Distinct, dIP-Distinct, Distinct:KEY-FIELD (KEY-FIELD can't also be key field in --fields)	

# Blacklists, Whitelists, Books of Lists...

---

Too many addresses for the command line?

- spam block list
- malicious websites
- arbitrary list of any type of addresses

Create an IP set!

- individual IP address in dotted decimal or integer
- CIDR blocks, 192.168.0.0/16
- wildcards, 10.4.6.x.2-254

Use it directly within your filter commands.

- **--sipset**, **--dipset**, **--anyset**

# Set Tools

---

**rwsetbuild**: Create sets from text.

**rwset**: Create sets from binary flow records.

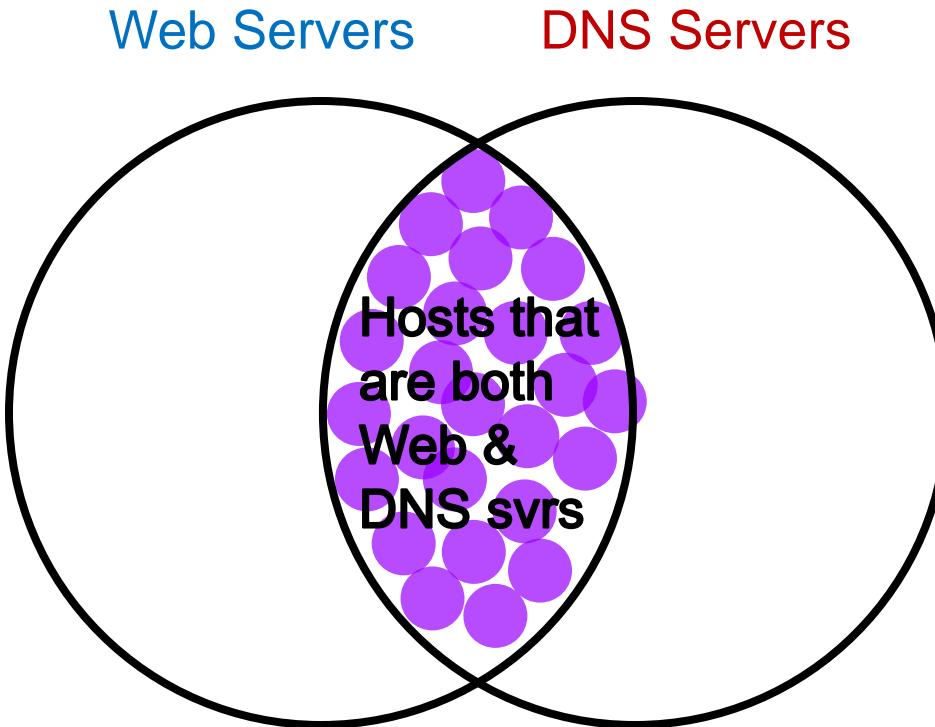
**rwsetcat**: Display an IP set as text.

**rwsetmember**: Test if an address is in given IP sets.

**rwsettool**: Perform set algebra (intersection, union, set difference) on multiple IP sets.

# Set Intersection

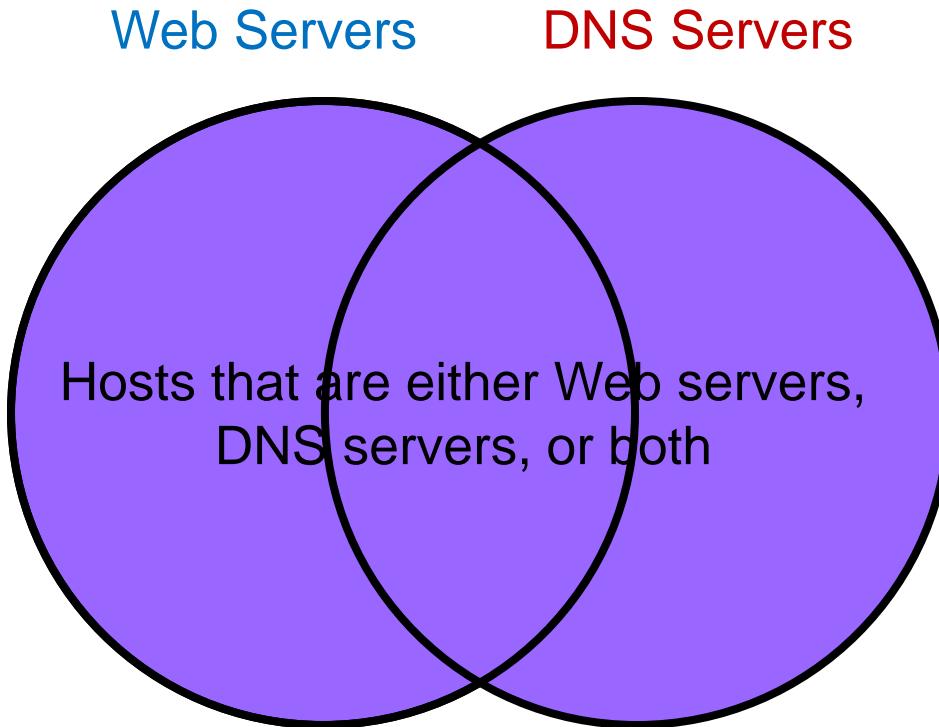
---



```
rwsettool --intersect web.set dns.set --output web_and_dns.set
```

# Set Union

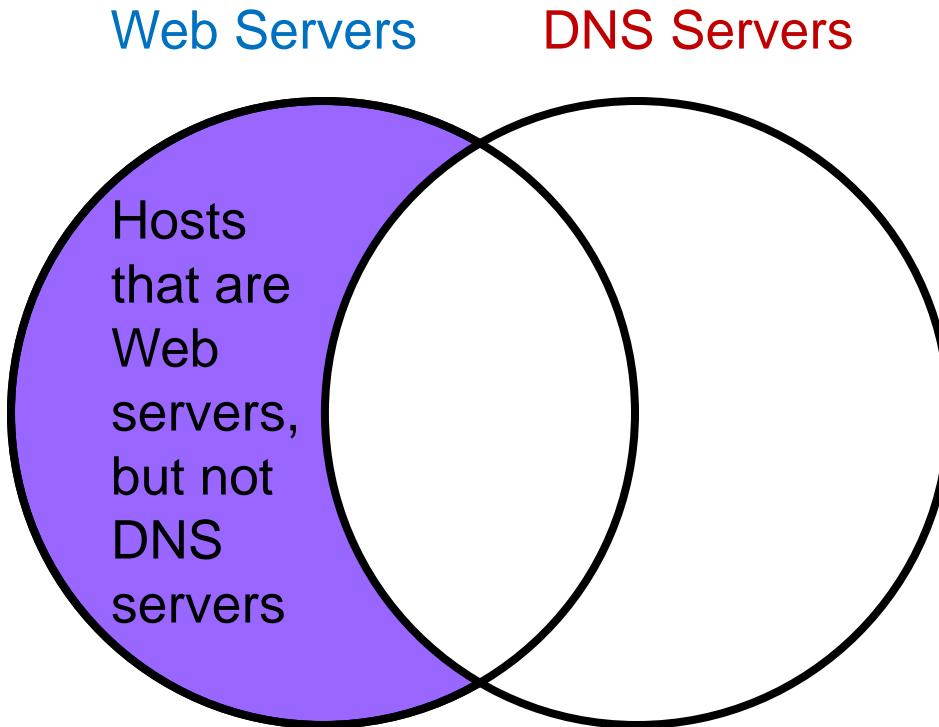
---



```
rwsettool --union web.set dns.set --output web_or_dns.set
```

# Set Difference

---



```
rwsettool --difference web.set dns.set --output web_not_dns.set
```

# What Is This? — 6

```
more MSSP.txt
```

```
171.128.2.0/24
```

```
171.128.212.0/24
```

```
rwsetbuild MSSP.txt MSSP.set
```

```
rwfilter --start=2010/12/8 --anyset=MSSP.set \
--pass=MSSP.rw --print-vol
```

	Recs	Packets	Bytes	Files
Total	30767188	81382782	35478407950	48
Pass	26678669	31743084	1464964676	
Fail	4088519	49639698	34013443274	

```
rwset --sip-file=MSSPsource.set MSSP.rw
```

```
rwsettool --intersect MSSP.set MSSPsource.set \
--output=activeMSSP.set
```

```
rwsetcat --count-ips activeMSSP.set
```

22

# What Is This? — 7

---

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=out \
--start=2009/4/21 --proto=0- \
--pass=stdout \
| rwset --dip-file=outIPs.set
rwsetcat outIPs.set --network-structure=16
 10.1.0.0/16| 8748
 10.2.0.0/16| 27
 140.13.0.0/16| 1
```

# Set Exercise 1

---

Make a set-file of addresses of all actual inside hosts.

Should we examine incoming or outgoing traffic?

Make a set-file of all outside addresses.

Can you make both sets with one command?

# Set Exercise 1 solution

---

```
rwfilter --sensor=S0 --type=out,outweb \
--start-d=2009/4/21 --end=2009/4/23 \
--proto=0- --pass=stdout \
| rwset --sip-file=insidehosts.set \
--dip-file=outsidehosts.set
```

# Set Exercise 2

---

Examine the two set-files.

# Set Exercise 2 solution

---

```
ls -l insidehosts.set
```

```
rwfileinfo insidehosts.set
```

```
rwsetcat insidehosts.set
```

```
ls -l outsidehosts.set
```

```
rwsetcat outsidehosts.set | less
```

# Set Exercise 3

---

Which /24 networks are on the inside?

Which /24 networks are on the outside?

# Set Exercise 3 solution

---

```
rwsetcat --network-struc=24 insidehosts.set
```

```
rwsetcat --network-struc=24 outsidehosts.set
```

# Advanced Partitioning Options

---

- TCP Flags
- Count of packets and bytes
- Time
- Extending rwfilter's partitioning options with plugins

# TCP Flags

---

S – Syn (synchronize)

U – Urg (urgent)

R – Rst (reset)

F – Fin (finish)

P – Psh (push)

A – Ack (acknowledge)

C – CWR (congestion window reduced)

E – ECE (explicit congestion notification echo)

# TCP Flags

---

--flags-initial=	# TCP flags in 1 <sup>st</sup> pkt of flow
--flags-session=	# flags in remaining packets
--flags-all=	# flags in all pkts of flow

=flagsOn flagsExamined

flagsOn: TCP flags that must be On to pass.

flagsExamined: flags under consideration for passing.

Any flags in flagsOn must also be in flagsExamined.

Flags in flagsExamined, but not in flagsOn, must be off to pass.

# TCP Flags

---

--flags-initial=S/SA # flow from client to server  
--flags-initial-SA/SA # flow from server to client  
--flags-init=S/SA --flags-session=F/F #full C->S flow  
--flags-init=SA/SA --flags-session=F/F #full S->C flow  
--flags-all=S/SFR # incomplete flow  
--flags-all=/FR # unfinished flow fragment

# Count of Packets and Bytes

---

--packets= # packets in the flow  
--bytes= # bytes in the packets in flow  
--bytes-per-packet= # average

--packets=3-  
--bytes=40-570  
--bytes-per-packet=40.0-75.125

# Partitioning by Time

---

--stime=*earliestime-latertime*

--etime=*earliestime-latertime*

--active-time=*earliestime-latertime*

--duration=*lowseconds-highseconds*

stime and etime are usually not used together.

Each time has millisecond resolution.

--stime=2009/4/21T13:00-2009/4/21T13:29 # ½ hr

--etime=2009/4/21T13:00:00-2009/4/21T13:00:09 # 10 sec

--stime=2009/4/21T13:00-2009/4/21T13:00:48.725 # 48.725s

# Extending Partitioning with Plugins

---

rwfilter's partitioning capabilities can be extended with plugins written in Python or C.

```
--python-expr=    # simple python expression  
--python-file=    # complex python pgm in a file  
--plugin=         # compiled C program in a file  
  
--python-expr='rec.sport == rec.dport'  
--python-file=clientserver_filt.py  
--plugin=app-mismatch.so
```

# I Only Believe What I See

---

You'll be tempted to work with text-based records.

- It's easy to see the results and post-process with other tools (e.g., Perl, awk, sed, sort).
- It takes a lot of space, and it's *much, much* slower.

Guiding principle: Keep flows in binary format as long as possible.

# What Is This? — 13

---

```
rwfilter --type=out \
--start=2010/12/08 \
--aport=22 --pass=ssh.rw
```

```
rwfilter --dport=22 ssh.rw \
--pass=stdout | rwcut
```

```
rwfilter --sport=22 ssh.rw \
--pass=stdout | rwcut
```

# Outline — 4

---

Introduction: SiLK

Network flow

Basic SiLK tools

**Advanced SiLK tools**

Summary

# PySiLK—Using SiLK with Python

---

- PySiLK—an extension to Python
- Allows Python to manipulate SiLK’s data files
- Uses the “silk” python module, from SEI CERT.

# PySiLK components

---

## PySiLK

- Read, manipulate, and write SiLK Flow records, IPsets, Bags, and Prefix Maps (pmaps) from within Python

## SilkPython (--python-file=)

- Create plug-ins for rwfilter or other SiLK utilities.
  - Create partitioning switches for rwfilter
  - Create new flow-record fields for other utilities

## --python-expr=

- Create a simple partitioning test without creating a new switch

# Stand-alone PySiLK example

---

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import silk
myfile = silk.silkfile_open("MyFlows.rw", silk.READ)
for rec in myfile:
    if rec.sport < 2500 and rec.sport == rec.dport:
        print rec.sport, rec.stime, rec.sip, rec.dip
myfile.close()
```

# PySiLK exercise

---

Write a Python program which reports the source IP address associated with the lowest source port used by any flow record in the file MyFlows.rw.

# PySiLK exercise solution

---

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import silk
lowsport = 65536 # could use 99999
myfile = silk.silkfile_open("MyFlows.rw", silk.READ)
for rec in myfile:
    if rec.sport < lowsport:
        lowsport = rec.sport
        lowsip = rec.sip
myfile.close()
print rec.sport, rec.sip
```

# --python-expr example

---

```
rwfilter sample.rw \
    --protocol=6 \
    --python-expr='rec.sport == rec.dport' \
    --pass=equalTCPports.rw
```

# SilkPython example (1)

---

```
import silk

def lowerport(rec):
    if rec.sport < rec.dport:
        return rec.sport
    else:
        return rec.dport

register_int_field("lport", lowerport, 0, 65535)
```

# SilkPython example (2)

---

```
rwstats --python-file=lowport.py --fields=lport \
--value=records --count=10 flows.rw
```

# SilkPython exercise

---

Write a plug-in for rwcut, rwstats, etc. The plug-in should define a new flow-record field which contains the IP address of the host using the lower port number in the flow. You'll need the following SilkPython function:

```
register_ip_field(field_name, ip_function)
```

# SilkPython exercise solution

---

```
import silk

def lowerport_ip(rec):
    if rec.sport < rec.dport:
        return rec.sip
    else:
        return rec.dip

register_ip_field("lip", lowerport_ip)
```

# Alternatives to PySiLK

---

- SiLK tools
  - Not as flexible criteria as Python.
  - Could use tuple files
    - Must be maintained
    - Aren't self-contained with logic
    - Large tuple files run slower than Python.
- Text processing with Perl, C, or Java
  - Create text with rwcut delimited without titles
  - Convert ports back to integers
  - Dealing with dates, times, or addresses difficult

# Modified example of PySilk

---

- Summarize the selection as a count by port
- Just keep a Python dictionary
  - Key = port number
  - Value = count

# PySiLK advantages

---

- Speeds both programming and processing
  - Keeps data in binary, unlike Perl & C
    - No parsing text
  - Built-in conversions of objects to strings
  - Full power of Python
- Good for:
  - Stateful filters and output options
  - Integrate SiLK with other data types
  - Complex or branching filter rules
  - Custom key fields and aggregators for rwcut, rwsort

# Outline — 5

---

Introduction: SiLK

Network flow

Basic SiLK tools

Advanced SiLK tools

**Summary**

# Furthering Your SiLK Analysis Skills (1)

---

Each tool has a `--help` option.

SiLK Reference Guide

SiLK Analysts' Handbook

- Both available at the SiLK tools website  
<http://tools.netsa.cert.org>

Email support

- [silk-help@cert.org](mailto:silk-help@cert.org)

# Furthering Your SiLK Analysis Skills (2)

---

## Tool tips

- [SiLK Tooltips link on http://tools.netsa.cert.org](http://tools.netsa.cert.org)

## Flow analysis research and advanced techniques

- <http://www.cert.org/flocon>
- <http://www.cert.org/netsa>

# Questions?

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# Contact Information

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